

MARVEL

EPIC COLLECTION

MASTER OF KUNG FU



WEAPON OF THE SOUL

ENGLEHART • STARLIN • MOENCH • GULACY

GEMINI
WHITE

EPIC COLLECTION



MASTER OF KUNG FU

WEAPON OF THE SOUL

VOLUME 1

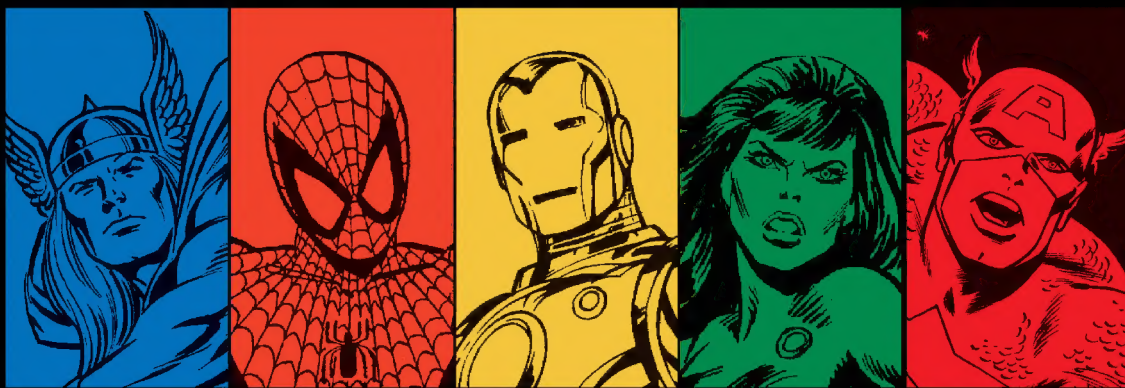
1973-1975

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #15-16, MASTER OF KUNG FU #17-28 & GIANT-SIZE #1-4,
GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN #2 AND IRON MAN ANNUAL #4

EPIC COLLECTION



The Epic Collections feature the best characters and stories from Marvel's vast history. Volumes are not published in chronological order — so start your collection today with this edition!



WRITERS:

STEVE ENGLEHART & DOUG MOENCH

WITH **JIM STARLIN, GERRY CONWAY, LEN WEIN & ROGER STERN**

PENCILERS:

JIM STARLIN & PAUL GULACY

WITH **RON WILSON, AL MILGROM, ROSS ANDRU, KEITH POLLARD, ALAN WEISS, WALTER SIMONSON, JOHN BUSCEMA, ED HANNIGAN, AUBREY BRADFORD, P. CRAIG RUSSELL, FRANK McLAUGHLIN & JEFF ACLIN**

INKERS:

AL MILGROM, SAL TRAPANI & DAN ADKINS
WITH **KLAUS JANSON, FRANK SPRINGER, MIKE ESPOSITO, P. CRAIG RUSSELL, FRANK McLAUGHLIN, JACK ABEL, VINCE COLLETTA & DON NEWTON**

LETTERERS:

TOM ORZECOWSKI, JOHN COSTANZA & ART SIMEK
WITH **DAVE HUNT,**

CHARLOTTE JETTER, JUNE BRAVERMAN, JEAN SIMEK, RAY HOLLOWAY, & HOWARD BENDER

COLORISTS:

PETRA GOLDBERG, GEORGE ROUSSOS, BILL MANTLO & JANICE COHEN
WITH **STEVE ENGLEHART, LINDA LESSMANN, STAN GOLDBERG, PHIL RACHELSON, GLYNIS WEIN & NELSON YOMTOV**

EDITORS:

ROY THOMAS
WITH **LEN WEIN & ARCHIE GOODWIN**

COLLECTION FRONT COVER ART:

JIM STARLIN & AL MILGROM WITH
COLORS BY **DEAN WHITE**

COLLECTION BACK COVER ART:

JOHN BUSCEMA & JOE SINNOTT

COLLECTION EDITOR: CORY SEDLMEIER

BOOK DESIGNER: NICKEL DESIGNWORKS

ART & COLOR RESTORATION: MICHAEL KELLEHER & KELLUSTRATION

SVP PRINT, SALES & MARKETING: DAVID GABRIEL

DIGITAL MANAGER/PRODUCTION: TIM SMITH 3 DIGITAL PRODUCTION: KOU CHEN & RACHEL YOUNG

EDITOR IN CHIEF: C.B. CEBULSKI CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA

PRESIDENT: DAN BUCKLEY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

SPECIAL THANKS: JON B. COOKE, MICHAEL KRONENBERG, RALPH MACCHIO & ROMAIN VERLIER

FEATURING SUPPORTING CHARACTERS CREATED BY SAX ROHMER

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #15, DEC. 1973

"SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU!"

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #16, FEB. 1973

"MIDNIGHT BRINGS DARK DEATH!"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #17, APRIL 1974

"LAIR OF THE LOST!"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #18, JUNE 1974

"ATTACK!"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #19, AUG. 1974

"RETREAT"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #20, SEPT. 1974

"WEAPON OF THE SOUL"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #21, OCT. 1974

"SEASON OF VENGEANCE..."

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF

KUNG FU #1, SEPT. 1974

"DEATH MASQUE!"

"FROZEN PAST, SHATTERED MEMORIES"

"SHAOLIN TEMPLE BOXING"

"REFLECTIONS IN A RIPPLED POOL!"

GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN #2, OCT. 1974

"MASTERSTROKE!"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #22, NOV. 1974

"A FORTUNE OF DEATH!"

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF

KUNG FU #2, DEC. 1974

"THE DEVIL-DOCTOR'S TRIUMPH"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #23, DEC. 1974

"RIVER OF DEATH!"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #24, JAN. 1975

"MASSACRE ALONG THE AMAZON!"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #25, FEB. 1975

"RITES OF COURAGE, FISTS OF DEATH!"

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF

KUNG FU #3, MAR. 1975

"FIRES OF REBIRTH"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #26, MAR. 1975

"DAUGHTER OF DARKNESS!"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #27, APRIL 1975

"CONFRONTATION"

MASTER OF KUNG FU #28, MAY 1975

"A SMALL SPIRIT SLOWLY SHAPED..."

GIANT-SIZE MASTER

OF KUNG FU #4, JUNE 1975

"WHY A TIGER-CLAW?!"

IRON MAN ANNUAL #4, 1977

"DEATH LAIR!"

SPECIAL
MARVEL
EDITION

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



20¢
CC

15
DEC
02449

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION™ FEATURING

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU™



**IRON-
FISTED
FIRST
ISSUE!**



**MARTIAL-ARTS
ACTION**
--AS YOU'VE NEVER
SEEN IT BEFORE!!

GEMINI

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE POWER-PACKED
PREMIERE
APPEARANCE
OF THE MOST
FANTASTIC,
MOST **FAS-**
CINATING
NEW HERO
OF **THIS**
OR ANY
OTHER
YEAR--

SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU!

SHANG-CHI:
BORN TO BE THE WORLD'S
MOST **FEARSOME**
FIGHTER, YET ALSO
BORN TO CARRY THE
CRUELLEST CURSE
IN MANKIND'S
MEMORY--

--BECAUSE HIS **FATHER** IS THE MOST
INFAMOUS VILLAIN OF ALL TIME--

FU MANKHU

YOU'VE NEVER
SEEN **ANYTHING**
LIKE **THIS**
BEFORE! WE
ABSOLUTELY
GUARANTEE IT!

STEVE ENGLEHART / JIM STARLIN
AUTHOR ARTIST

AL MILGROM
INKER

TOM ORZECOWSKI
LETTERER

ENGLEHART
COLORIST

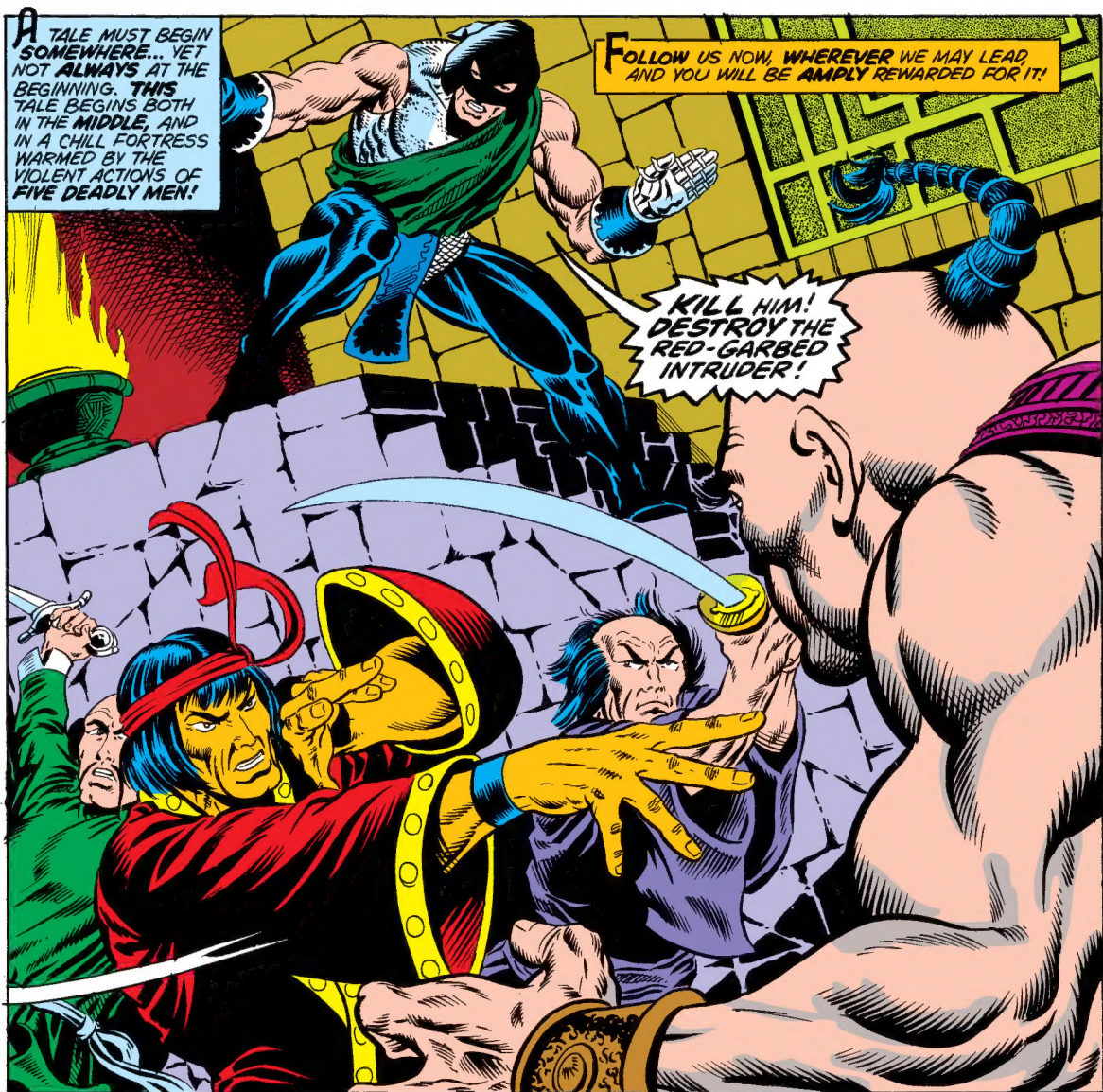
ROY THOMAS
EDITOR

FEATURING CHARACTERS CREATED
by **SAX ROHMER**

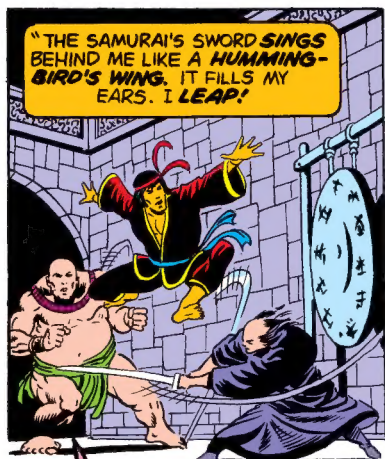
A TALE MUST BEGIN SOMEWHERE... YET NOT ALWAYS AT THE BEGINNING. THIS TALE BEGINS BOTH IN THE MIDDLE, AND IN A CHILL FORTRESS WARMED BY THE VIOLENT ACTIONS OF FIVE DEADLY MEN!

FOLLOW US NOW, WHEREVER WE MAY LEAD, AND YOU WILL BE AMPLY REWARDED FOR IT!

KILL HIM! DESTROY THE RED-GARBED INTRUDER!



"THE SAMURAI'S SWORD SINGS BEHIND ME LIKE A HUMMING-BIRD'S WING. IT FILLS MY EARS. I LEAP!"



DOG! YOU MISSED HIM!

THEN MY STEEL-SHOE FEET AND HANDS SHALL CORRECT THE ERROR!





"NOW THERE REMAINS BUT **ONE** OF MY ORIGINAL FOUR ASSAILANTS."



-- **FU MANCHU!**

"A **FACE** HAS INTRUDED UPON MY THOUGHTS, EVEN AS I FIGHT: THE FACE OF MY **FATHER**. IT RECALLS THE **LAST TIME** I SAW HIM, AND AS HIS NAME **PASSES MY LIPS**, THE **MEMORIES** OF THAT MEETING -- AND ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED **SINCE** -- WELL UP **WITHIN** ME LIKE THE **HWANG HO'S** SPRINGTIME FLOODS!

GREETINGS, SHANG-CHI.

GREETINGS, HONORABLE ONE.

I AWAIT YOUR **COMMANDS**. YOU HAVE ONLY TO **SPEAK**, AND I AM YOUR **SLAVE**.

SHANG-CHI, CHILD OF MY FLESH... ALL OF YOUR NINETEEN YEARS HAVE BEEN SPENT HERE IN MY **HONAN RETREAT**--

--WHERE I (WHEN POSSIBLE) AND MY MOST TRUSTED **SENSEIS** (WHEN NOT) HAVE TRAINED YOU **RIGOROUSLY** IN BOTH THE **MENTAL** AND **MARTIAL ARTS**.

I AM WELL **PLEASED** WITH THE RESULTS.

YOUR **INTELLECT** RIVALS THE **BEST** OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND MORE-OVER--

YOU ARE A **LIVING WEAPON!**

IT IS FOR THIS **FINAL** REASON THAT I WISH TO SEND YOU **INTO** THAT WORLD FOR THE **FIRST TIME!**

YOU HAVE BEEN **TOLD** OF MY UNCEASING WORK TO BRING THE FRUITS OF MY **GENIUS** TO BEAR UPON THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD-- TO AID SUFFERING **MANKIND**.

YOU DO **NOT** KNOW THAT TREACHEROUS **FOES** HAVE ATTEMPTED TO **THWART** ME.

ONE SUCH, A **DR. PETRIE**, MAY WELL BE TERMED THE **MOST EVIL MAN ALIVE!**



HIS LIFE NOW NEARS ITS CLIMAX, AS OLD AGE OVERTAKES HIM-- BUT HE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DIE OF NATURAL CAUSES!



FOR THE INIQUITIES HE HAS VISITED UPON ME-- FOR THE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE HE HAS DONE TO THE CAUSE OF WORLD ORDER-- THAT PEACE MUST BE DENIED HIM!



MY SON, YOU MUST KILL HIM!



MAYFAIR: AN EXCLUSIVE SECTION OF LONDON.



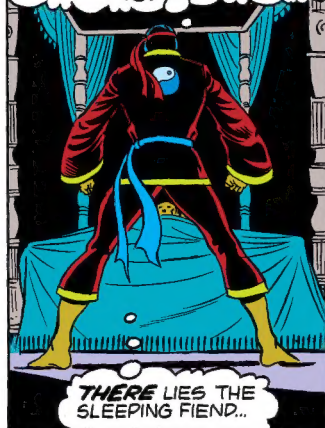
PETRIE'S HOME--

MY FIRST MISSION FOR MY FATHER IS AS AN ASSASSIN! HOW DIFFERENT FACT IS FROM MY CHILDISH IMAGININGS!



MY STUDIES IN THE PHILOSOPHIES HAVE SHOWN ME THAT KILLING IS AN ACT TO BE ABHORRED...

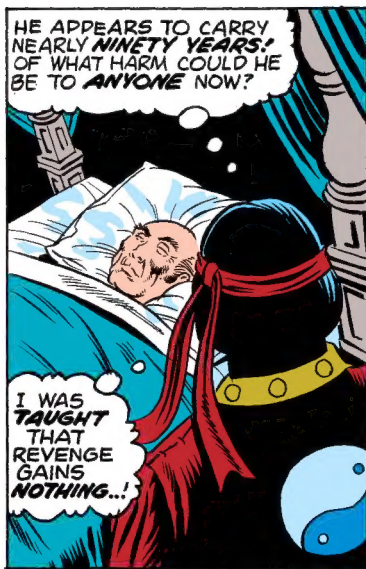
...YET MY FATHER IS AN HONORABLE AND TRUTHFUL MAN, OF COURSE. IF HE BELIEVES THIS COURSE TO BE CORRECT, THEN IT IS.



THERE LIES THE SLEEPING FIEND...



...BUT--HE IS SO OLD... SO FEEBLE!



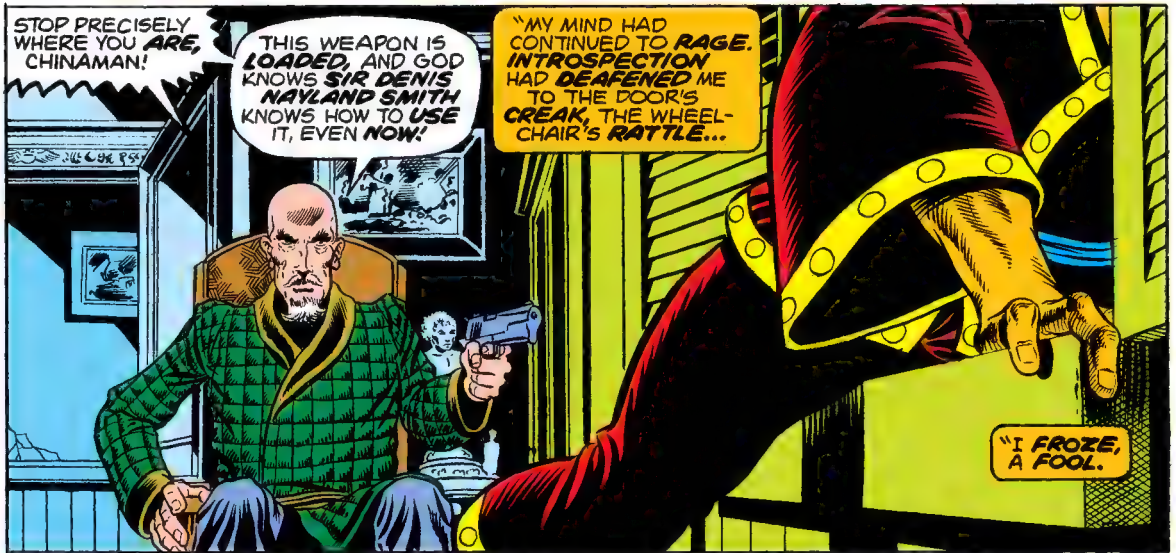
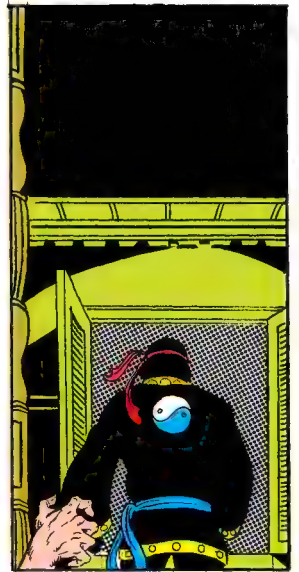
HE APPEARS TO CARRY NEARLY NINETY YEARS! OF WHAT HARM COULD HE BE TO ANYONE NOW?

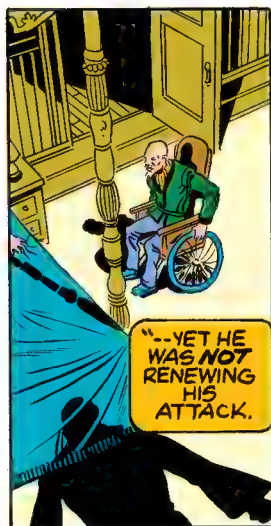
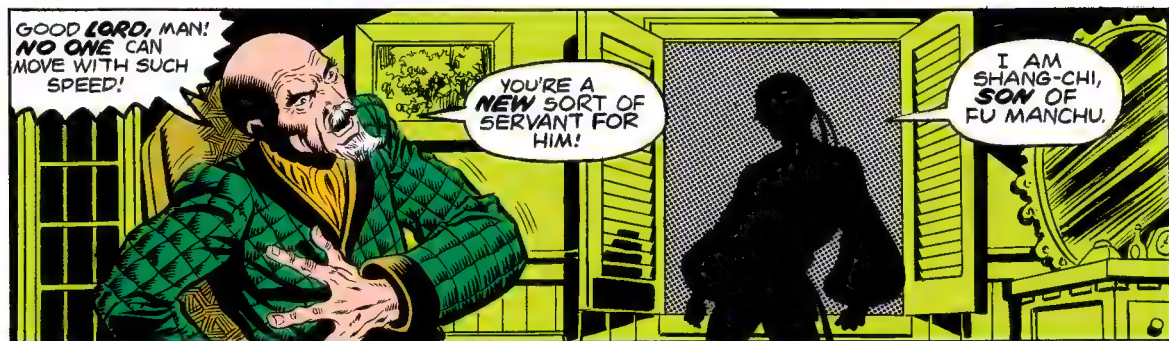
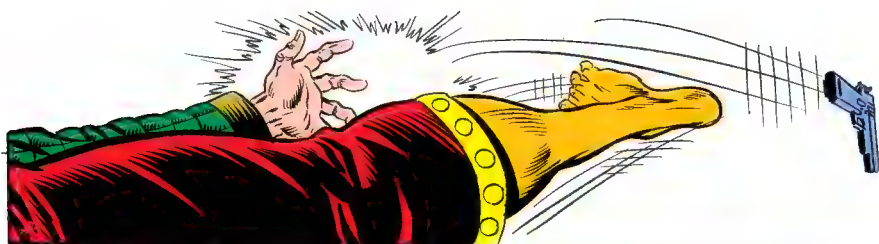
I WAS TAUGHT THAT REVENGE GAINS NOTHING...!



"I STOOD THERE, OUTWARDLY SILENT, THOUGH MY MIND WAGED WAR WITHIN ITSELF...

...YET SOMETHING IN THAT MOMENT CAUSED THE ANCIENT BRITON TO OPEN HIS RHEUMY EYES...





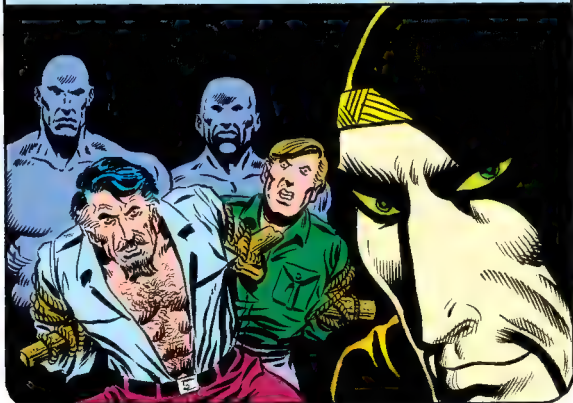


I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT FU MANCHU!
IT WAS 1911, AND I WAS AN AGENT OF THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT STATIONED IN
BURMA, WHEN I FIRST HEARD OF A
CERTAIN **MAN**-- A MAN WHO SPOKE
EVERY CIVILIZED LANGUAGE, AND MOST
OF THE **BARBARIC**-- AN ADEPT IN ALL
ARTS AND SCIENCES TAUGHT IN
UNIVERSITIES, AND CERTAIN **OBSCURE**
ARTS AND SCIENCES **NO** UNIVERSITY OF
TODAY CAN TEACH-- A MAN WITH THE
INTELLECT OF ANY **THREE** MEN OF
GENIUS! IN SHORT, I LEARNED OF...
HIM!



HE WAS **ANCIENT** THEN--OLDER THAN I AM NOW! BUT BY 1932, HE HAD DEVELOPED THE
ELIXIR VITAE-- THE **OIL OF LIFE**-- TO PRESERVE AND **PROLONG** HIS VITALITY. IF **ANYTHING**,
HE HAS GROWN **YOUNGER** SINCE THEN. **AGELESSNESS** HAS FREED HIM TO WORK SINGLE-
MINDEDLY TOWARD HIS SINGLE **GOAL**: DOMINATION OF THE WORLD BY THE **SI-FAN**, THE MOST **SINISTER**
SECRET SOCIETY EXTANT! ITS ADHERENTS-- **ALL** AT HIS COMMAND-- INCLUDE **DACOITS**, **PHANSIGARS**,
THUGS, **HASHISHIN**, AND OTHER **MORE** TERRIBLE CULTS! YET HIS **OTHER** WEAPONS ARE **WORSE**,
FOR HE EMPLOYS **SPIDERS**, **RATS**, **REPTILES**, AND OTHER LOATHSOME VERMIN-- AS WELL AS THE
WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL **WOMEN**-- AS HIS PAWNS!

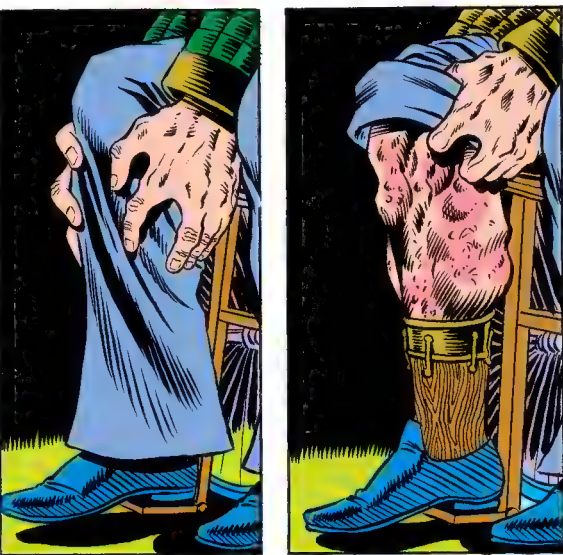
FOR FORTY YEARS I FOUGHT HIM, FIRST WITH PETRIE AND THEN OTHERS, AS THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS UNITED BEHIND ME! ALWAYS HE ELUDED ME, UNTIL U.S. AGENT TONY MCKAY AND I CAPTURED A LIST OF EVERY SI-FAN LODGE MASTER IN CHINA, AND USED IT TO RUN HIM TO EARTH! YET, OUR ATTACK MISFIRE, AND HE CAPTURED US!



SIR DENIS, I HAVE ADMIRERD YOU SINCE OUR FIRST MEETING. HOWEVER...

I DESIRE RETRIBUTION.

... IN THIS INSTANCE, YOU HAVE UTTERLY DESTROYED MY LIFE'S WORK. I AM NULLIFIED.



HE MURDERED MCKAY OUTRIGHT, WITH AN INJECTION OF HELLISH, GREEN FLUID. IT TOOK SIX SECONDS.



HE WAS MORE ARTISTIC WITH ME.

THERE WAS A GUARD HE USED-- AN ENORMOUS SUMO NAMED TAK. FU MANCHU SAID TAK COULD GRIND AN OPPONENT'S BONES TO PASTE!

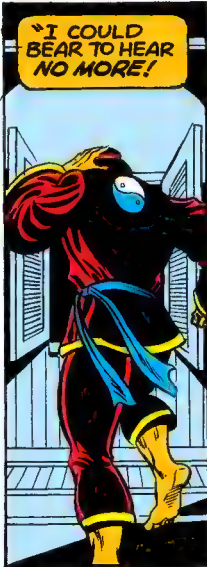


MY FATHER DID THIS?!

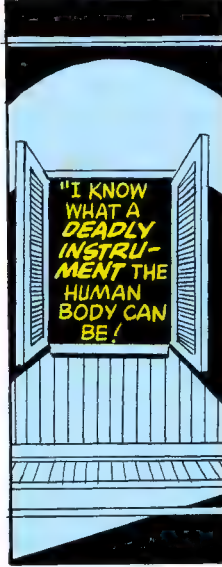
MY FATHER?!

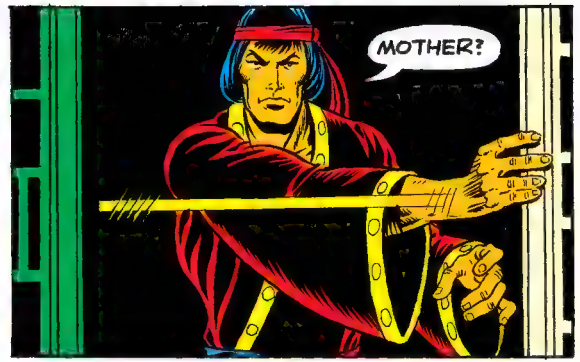
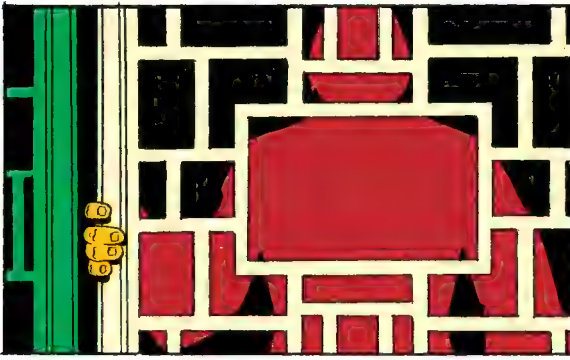


"I COULD BEAR TO HEAR NO MORE!"



"I KNOW WHAT A DEADLY INSTRUMENT THE HUMAN BODY CAN BE!"





MOTHER?

I AM **TROUBLED**,
MOTHER. I MUST
SPEAK TO YOU
AT LENGTH.

I HAVE TRAVELED
THOUSANDS OF
MILES--FROM ENGLAND--
TO ASK YOU ABOUT
MY FATHER.

YOU HAVE NO **NEED** TO
ASK, SHANG. YOUR **FACE**
SHOWS ALL TOO **PLAINLY**
THAT YOU ALREADY KNOW.

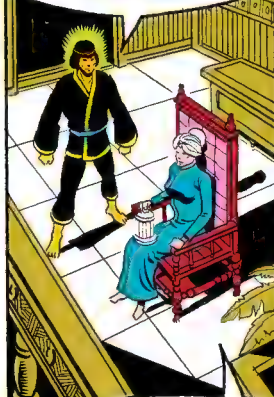
I KNEW THAT
ONE DAY YOU WOULD
DISCOVER THE TRUTH.
EVEN RAISED IN
ISOLATION AS YOU
WERE, IT COULD **NOT**
HAVE BEEN KEPT
FROM YOU **FOREVER**.

IF ONLY
THAT DAY
HADN'T
COME SO
SOON!

BUT--**WHY**, MOTHER?
WHY WOULD YOU-- AN
AMERICAN, A DAUGHTER
OF A COUNTRY AT WAR
WITH MY FATHER--
CONSENT TO BE HIS
BRIDE?

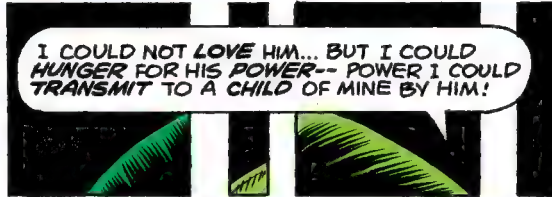
I COULD NOT LOVE HIM... BUT I COULD
HUNGER FOR HIS **POWER**-- POWER I COULD
TRANSMIT TO A CHILD OF MINE BY HIM!

AND I AM **HE**...
YOUR SON...

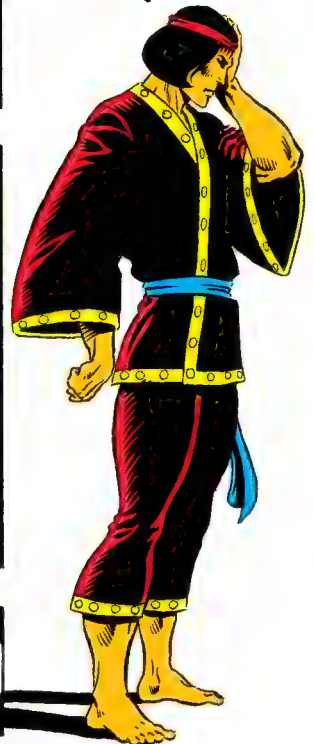


SHANG... HE **CHOSE**
ME--**SELECTED** ME
FROM **ALL** THE WOMEN
IN THE WORLD TO BE
THE **SCIENTIFICALLY-**
PERFECT MOTHER
OF HIS CHILD!

PICTURE HIM: TALL,
FELINE, WITH A BROW
LIKE **SHAKESPEARE** AND
A FACE LIKE **SATAN**, AND
LONG, MAGNETIC EYES OF
THE TRUE **CAT-GREEN!**



I WANTED A
SON WHO WOULD
BE A **KING!**



...THE SON OF FU MANCHU!

NEVERTHELESS, YOU ARE AN
INTRUDER! MY MASTER HAS
NOT **ORDERED** YOUR PRESENCE
HERE IN THE SANCTUM!

I DO NOT *DISPUTE* THAT--TAK.

YOU KNOW MY NAME? HOW?

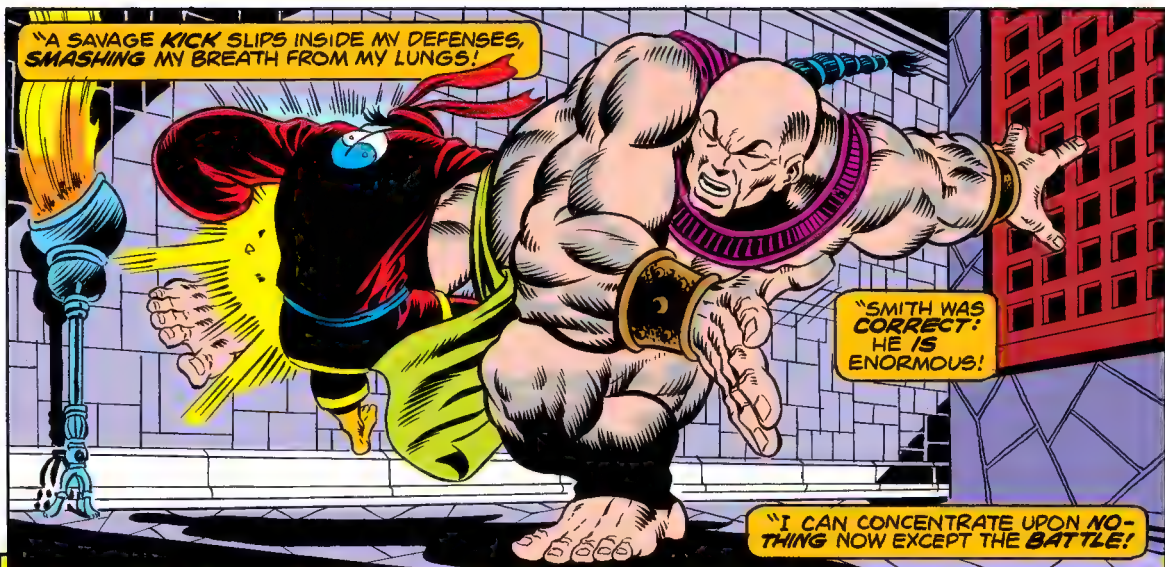
IT WAS AN
ASSUMPTION--BUT
A **LOGICAL** ONE
BASED ON **OTHER**
FACTS I KNOW.

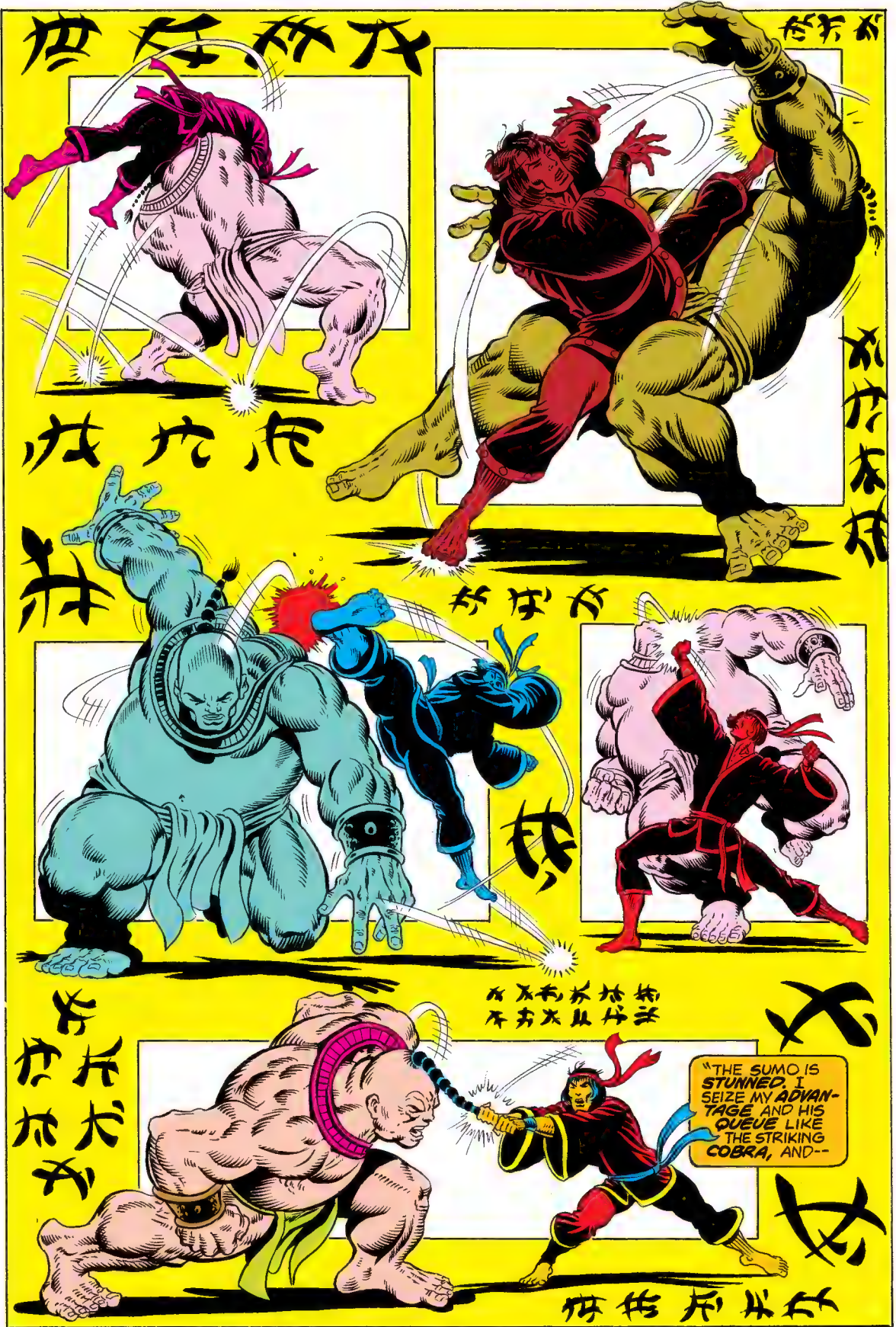
I AM DETERMINED TO
PASS YOU, TAK--NOT
ONLY FOR **MYSELF**, NOW--

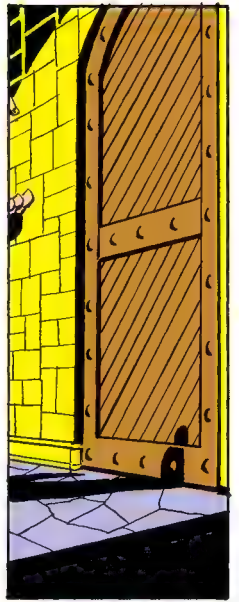
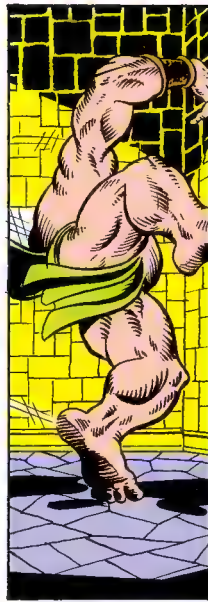
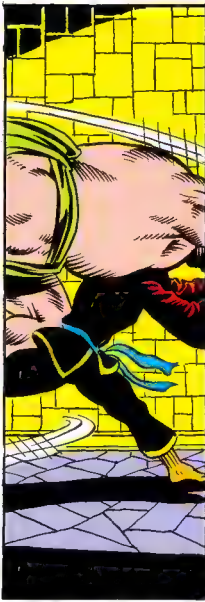
--BUT ALSO FOR **SIR**
DENIS NAYLAND SMITH!

"THE NAME PULLS THE
SUMO'S **LIPS** BACK, IN
WHAT MAY BE A **SNARL**--
OR A **SMILE**--

"--AND THEN HE IS
UPON ME!







"I PAD FORWARD OVER ANCIENT TILES, FEELING THEIR COOL RIGIDITY WITH MY **TOES**... BUT MY DESIRE TO SPEAK WITH MY FATHER **WAVERS** NOW. I SEEK **RESPITE** FROM MY DRIVING CONSCIENCE IN THE FIRST ROOM I SPY.

"IT IS HIS **LABORATORY**.

SO **THIS** IS WHAT HE DOES IN HIS HEADQUARTERS. NO **WONDER**, NOW, THAT HE USES OUR **HOME** IN **HONAN** AS A **RETREAT** ONLY.

IT WOULD NOT HAVE **DONE** FOR ME TO SEE HIS **FIELDS** AND **METHODS** OF **EXPERIMENTATION**.

YET I SPEAK AS IF HE WERE A **STRANGER**-- A MAN I KNOW **NOT**--

--WHEN, IN TRUTH, HE IS MY **SIRE**! THOUGH HE AND MY MOTHER WERE OFTEN **GONE** FROM ME, THEY **STILL** GAVE ME **LIFE**... REARED ME TO **MANHOOD**!

I WAS TAUGHT TO **OPPOSE** **EVIL**... I WAS TAUGHT TO **LOVE** AND **RESPECT** MY **PARENTS**.

HOW **CAN** I DO **BOTH**?

THE **ANSWER** IS THAT PROPAGATING A **CHILD** IS BUT A **NATURAL** FUNCTION OF THE **BODY**...

...WHILE COMMITTING **EVIL** ACTS AGAINST OTHER LIVING BEINGS IS A **CONSCIOUS** DECISION OF THE **MIND**!

MUCH AS I **REVERE** THE **BODY**, IT IS ONLY A **MACHINE**, GRANTED TO **EACH** HUMAN AS PART OF BEING **ALIVE**....

THE **INDIVIDUAL** PERSONALITY RESIDES IN THE **MIND**, AND WHAT **IT** DOES WITH THE **BODY** DETERMINES--**EH?**

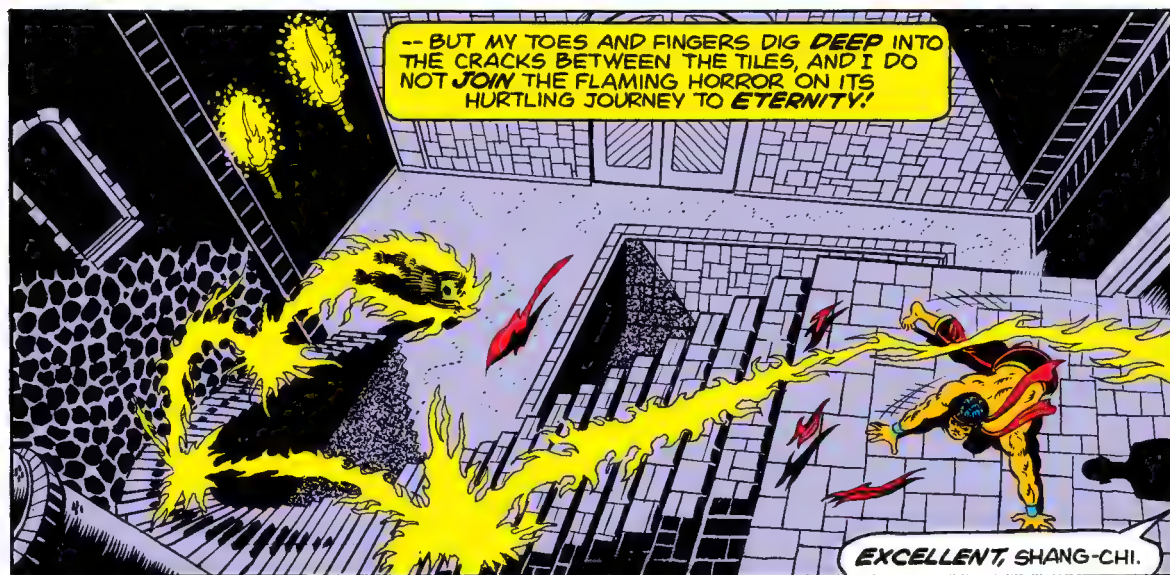
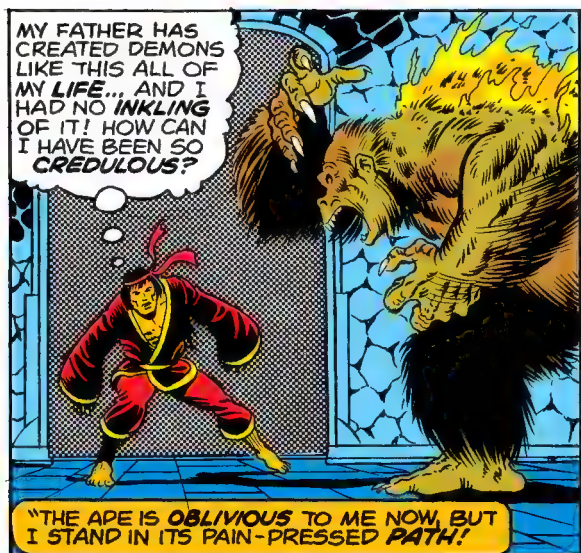
"A **SOFT** **SCRAPE** SOUNDS **BEHIND** ME!

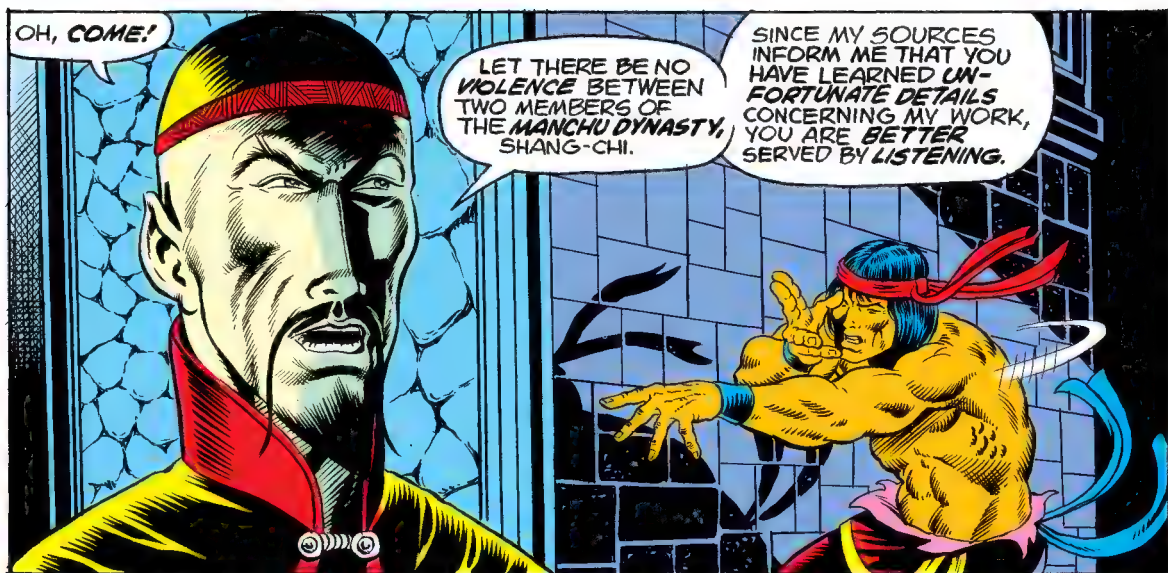


FROM THE FILES
OF DR. FU MANCHU,
16 JULY 1968:

SUCCESS GREETED ME TODAY. EXPERIMENTALIZATION WITH THE APE HAS GIVEN IT A DEFINITELY DEVELOPED BRAIN, CAPABLE OF ELEMENTARY REASONING. THUS, PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURES WERE ABLE TO INDUCE A TRULY HUMAN SCHIZOPHRENIA IN THE BEAST. AN INSANE GORILLA WILL MAKE A SUPERLATIVE FINAL GUARD IN THE HEADQUARTERS.



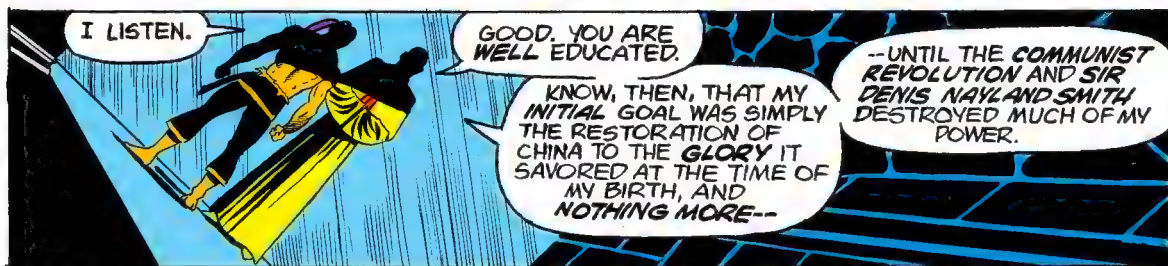




OH, COME!

LET THERE BE NO VIOLENCE BETWEEN TWO MEMBERS OF THE MANCHU DYNASTY, SHANG-CHI.

SINCE MY SOURCES INFORM ME THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED UN-FORTUNATE DETAILS CONCERNING MY WORK, YOU ARE BETTER SERVED BY LISTENING.



I LISTEN.

GOOD. YOU ARE WELL EDUCATED.

KNOW, THEN, THAT MY INITIAL GOAL WAS SIMPLY THE RESTORATION OF CHINA TO THE GLORY IT SAVORED AT THE TIME OF MY BIRTH, AND NOTHING MORE--

--UNTIL THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION AND SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH DESTROYED MUCH OF MY POWER.



IT EMBITTERED ME. I DO NOT DENY IT.

I WAS FORCED TO REBUILD THE SI-FAN WITHOUT PEKING'S BACKING-- A TASK WHICH HAS COST ME MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS--

--BUT I HAVE SUCCEEDED!

NOW I STAND ALONE, THE EMPEROR OF AN INVISIBLE, WORLD-WIDE EMPIRE, OPPOSED TO ALL RECOGNIZED GOVERNMENTS--

--AND I SWEAR TO AND BY THE GODS OF CATHAY THAT I SHALL DESTROY THEM THIS TIME FOR THEIR MULISH STUPIDITY!

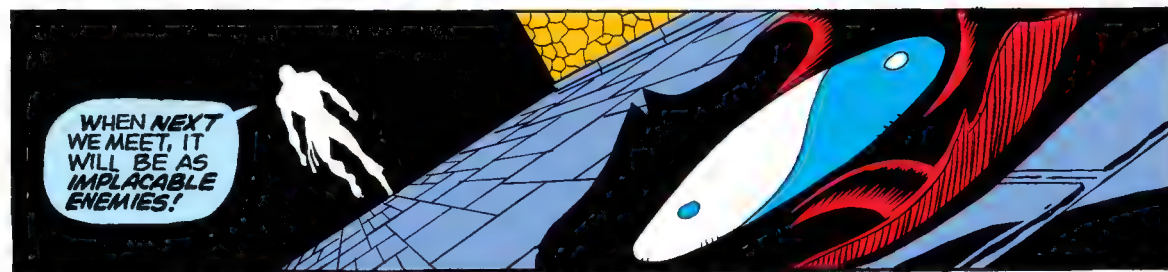
SURELY NOW, MY SON, YOU UNDERSTAND THE WISDOM AND JUSTICE OF MY COURSE.



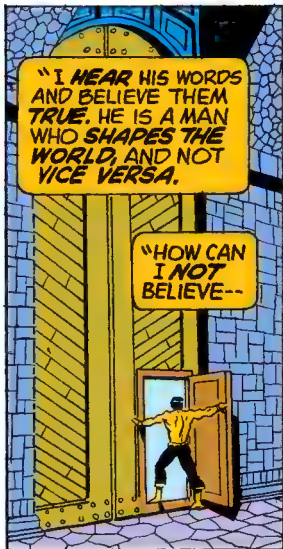
FATHER... YOU SPEAK WITH ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE, COMPLETELY CONVINCED THAT YOUR VISION IS THE ONLY PROPER WAY--

--AND, LIKE ALL MEN WHO SPEAK THUS...

...YOU ARE MAD!



WHEN NEXT WE MEET, IT WILL BE AS IMPLACABLE ENEMIES!



SPECIAL
MARVEL
EDITION

MARVEL COMICS GROUPTM



20¢
CC

16
FEB
02449

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITIONTM FEATURING

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FUTM



TM

THE MAN-MENACE CALLED...
MIDNIGHT!



CAN EVEN SHANG-CHI'S
FISTS OF FURY
PREVAIL--AGAINST THE
STARS OF DEATH?

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!** TM

MIDNIGHT BRINGS DARK DEATH!

"I STAND IN THE CHILLED EVENING BREEZE SLIPPING THROUGH THE REMNANT OF NATURE NEW YORKERS NAME **CENTRAL PARK**, PREPARING TO WELCOME MUCH-NEEDED **SLEEP** BESIDE A QUIET, WELL-GROWN **OAK**."

"THIS '**PARK**' IS MY HOME NOW, SINCE I LEFT THE ABODE OF MY FATHER, THE MANDARIN **FU MANCHU!**"

"YET, IN **THIS** HOME, I HAVE NO SAY OVER WHO MAY **VISIT** ME--"

"-- AND I FEAR THAT I WILL BE FORCED TO **FOREGO** MY REPOSE, TO TURN **INSTEAD** TO MY SKILL WITH THE **MARTIAL ARTS--**"

"--MY SKILL WITH **KUNG FU!**"

FEATURING
CHARACTERS
CREATED BY
SAX
ROHMER

STEVE ENGLEHART • JIM STARLIN // AL MILGROM // TOM ORZECOWSKI, LETTERER // ROY THOMAS
AUTHOR ARTIST CO-ARTIST LINDA LESSMANN, COLORIST EDITOR

WILL YA **LOOK** AT THAT DUDE, MR. CLEAN?

HE'S ALL DECKED OUT IN ONE/A THOSE FANCY **TOGAS**-- LIKE THOSE **SLANT-EYES** IN THE MOVIES OVER ON 42ND STREET.

YEAH, RIPPER--AN' HERE I THOUGHT YA HADDA PAY **CASH MONEY** TO SEE ANYBODY DRESSED LIKE THAT!

DUDE MUST THINK HE'S PRETTY **BAD** TO WEAR THAT THING! I WONDER **HOW** BAD!

HA! RELAX, MAN! I WAS **THINKIN'** I MIGHT MAKE THE SLANT EAT SOME DIRT--

--AN' **LOOK!** HE'S **ALREADY** DOWN ON HIS KNEES MUNCHIN' SOME **WEEDS!**

"THE PLANTS WHICH GROW IN THE SOIL OF THIS BEFOULED CITY CONTAIN MANY **IMPURITIES**, YET CERTAIN OF THEM ARE **NUTRITIOUS**-- AND I DO NOT BUY FOOD.

HEY, **CREEP!**

"I WISH ONLY TO END MY DAY WITH **TRANQUILITY**."

DON'T YA KNOW CENTRAL PARK'S **DANGEROUS** AFTER DARK?

THERE'S **MUGGERS** OUT HERE!

"MUGGERS?" I DO NOT KNOW THE **TERM**.

IT MEANS GUYS WHO **HURT** PEOPLE, **SLANT**-- MAYBE EVEN **KILL** 'EM!

NO ONE MAY KILL ME.

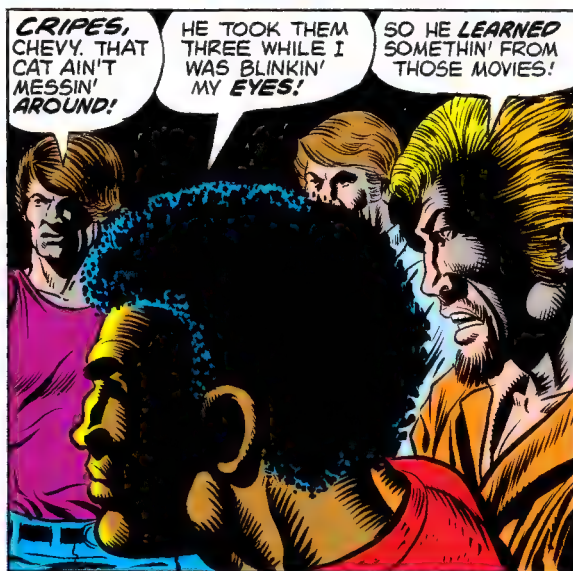
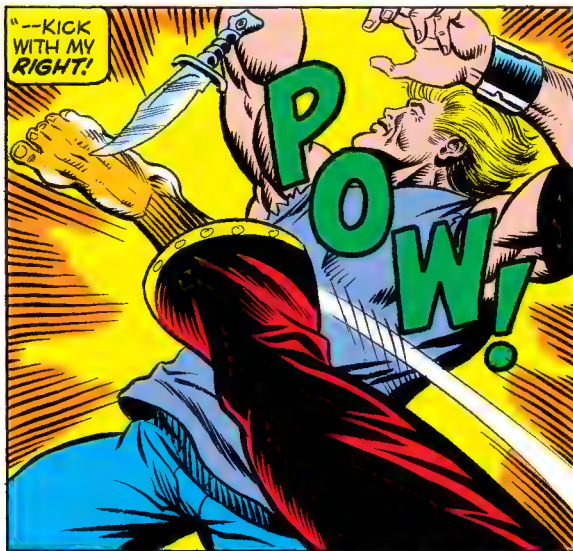
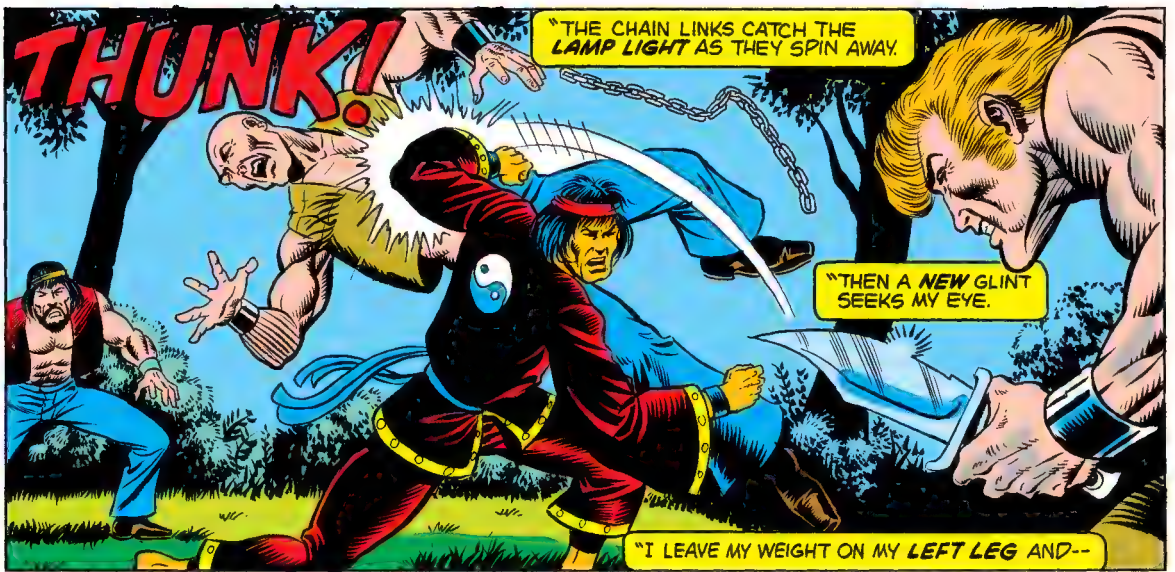
"THE BALD ONE'S **SWEAT-ODOR** SUDDENLY INCREASES **SHARPLY**. HIS **CHAIN** MAKES THE SOUND OF A LARGE **BEE** AS IT CUTS THE AIR.

NO?

POK!

"I THRUST MY HEAD FORWARD A FRACTION OF A SECOND TOO LATE."

NO.



"THE NEW ONE'S ORY
ALMOST STEALS MY
ATTENTION FROM MY
PREVIOUS FOE.



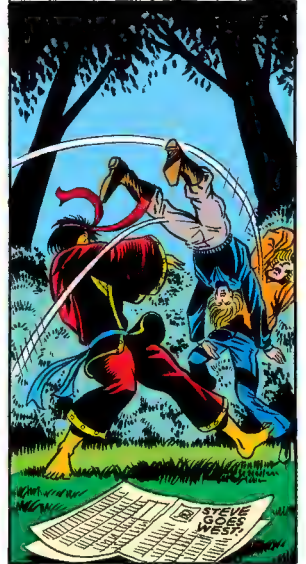
"FORTUNATELY, MY
TRAINING WAS
COMPLETE.



"ANOTHER
KNIFE!



UNNH!

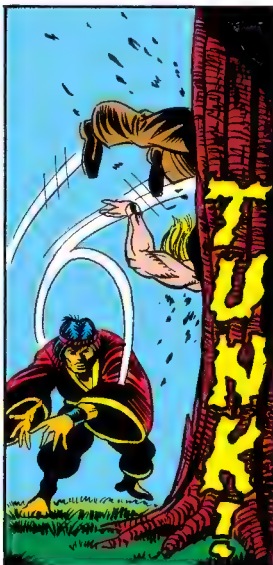


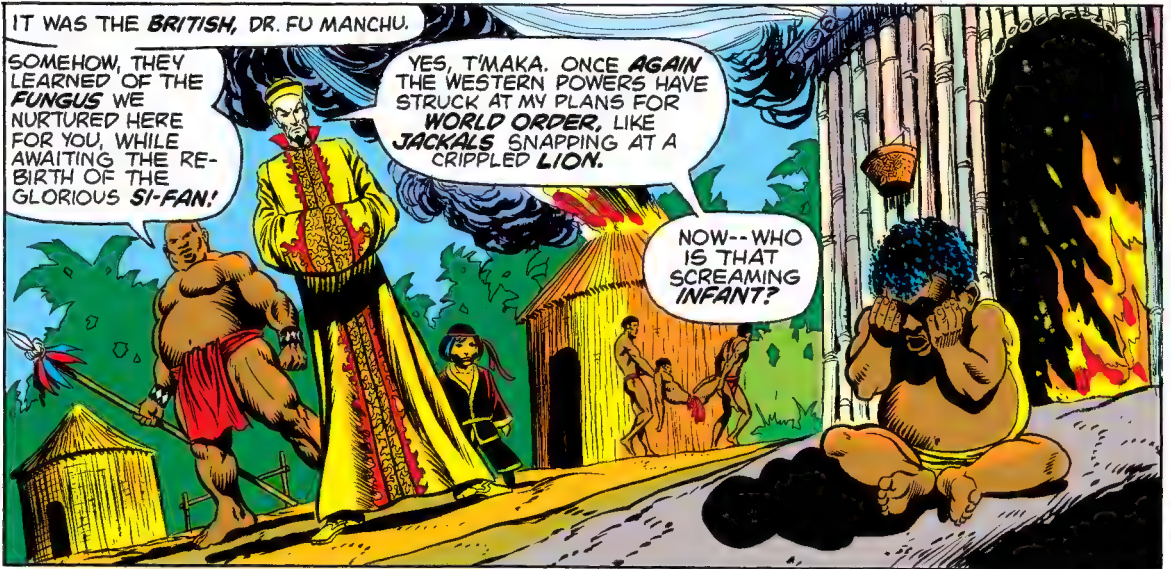
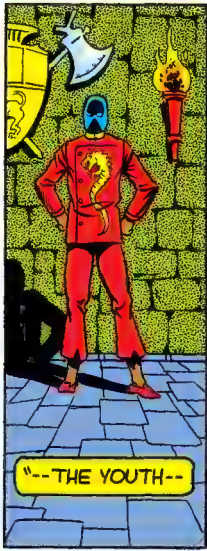
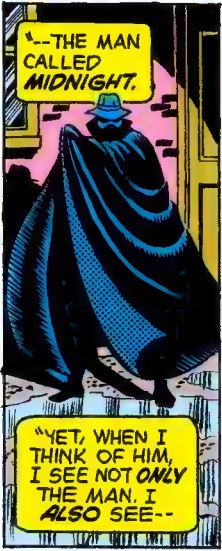
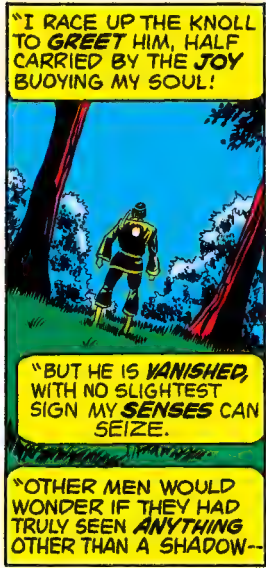
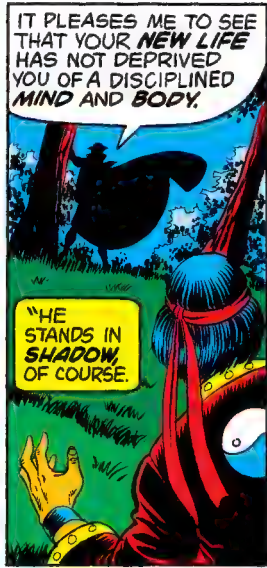
HUNN!



GET 'IM!
DRAG 'IM
DOWN!

STOMP
HIS
HEAD!







"THERE ARE NO **FIRMER** FRIENDSHIPS THAN THOSE FORMED BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE FORGING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE SAME **ADVERSITIES** TOGETHER. M'NAI'S AND MY UPWARD PROGRESS THROUGH SCHOOL MADE US **INSEPARABLE**--



--UNTIL SIX DAYS AGO, WHEN I WAS SUMMONED BY MY **FATHER**-- FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF **DR. PETRIE**, WHICH **BEGAN** MY NEW LIFE.

"AS FAR AS **UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD** AND **SKILL WITH THE MARTIAL ARTS** IS CONCERNED, I COULD BE **HE** AND **HE** COULD BE **I**.



BUT **WHY** DID HE **FLEE** FROM ME?

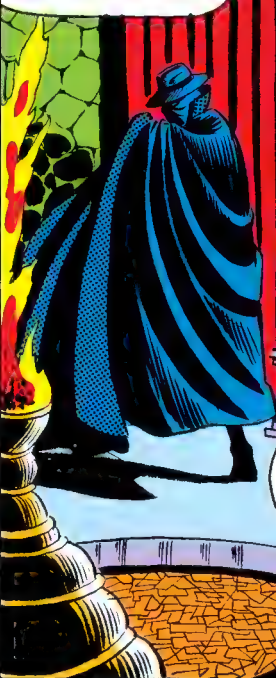


WHY DID I **FLEE** FROM HIM?

HE IS MY **ONLY FRIEND**, YET I FOUND I COULD NOT **FACE** HIM!

YOUR FINELY-HONED **SENSES** TOLD YOU HE IS **NO LONGER** THE SAME **SHANG-CHI** YOU KNEW, **MIDNIGHT**.

I ASKED YOU TO USE YOUR **UNIQUE ABILITIES** TO DISCOVER HIS PRESENT **LOCATION** SO THAT YOU WOULD **KNOW** THAT!



I **UNDERSTOOD** THAT YOU WOULD **FEEL** HIS BETRAYAL OF ME TO MY **OPPRESSORS**--

--YOUR **OPPRESSORS**!

YES, BUT-- HE IS MY **FRIEND**! I HAVE KNOWN THOSE WHO WERE **MORE SKILLFUL** THAN I, AND SO **TAUGHT** ME THEIR **SKILLS**--

--THOSE WHO WERE **LESS SKILLFUL** THAN I, AND SO **FELL** BEFORE ME--

--AND A **HANDFUL**, INCLUDING **SHANG-CHI**, WHO WERE MY **EQUALS**--

--BUT I HAVE KNOWN ONLY **ONE FRIEND**, AND IT IS **HE**!



YOU ALSO KNOW ONLY **ONE MASTER**, **MIDNIGHT**-- AND IT IS **I**!



HE WAS MY **SON** BEFORE HE BECAME YOUR **FRIEND**, BUT **SENTIMENT** IS A TENET OF **WESTERN** PHILOSOPHY, NOT **OURS**!

IT IS THE **AMERICAN** STREAK HE INHERITED FROM HIS **MOTHER** THAT **LED** HIM TO HIS TREACHERY!

IN OUR PHILOSOPHY, TREACHERY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO **UNPUNISHED**-- AND IT GIVES ME NO QUALMS TO **ORDER** YOU, AS HIS EQUAL, TO **PROVIDE** THAT PUNISHMENT!

--UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU ALSO WISH TO TURN AGAINST ME.

NO, HONORABLE ONE, EVERYTHING I **AM** MAY BE LAID TO YOUR **WISDOM** AND **GENEROSITY**.

WITHOUT YOUR **INTERVENTION**, I WOULD BE **DEAD**-- OR, AT **BEST**, AN UNEDUCATED **JUNGLE SAVAGE**!

I AM YOUR **SLAVE**, NOW AND **FOREVER**!

YOU WILL **KILL** HIM FOR ME, THEN?

I WILL **KILL** HIM.

"MY FRIEND'S FLIGHT BANISHES **SLEEP** FROM MY THOUGHTS.

"I LEAVE THE **GRASS** OF CENTRAL PARK TO WALK THE **ASPHALT** AND **CEMENT** NEW YORKERS THINK MORE **VALUABLE**--

-- TO USE THE REFUSE, THE GRIME, THE POOLS OF PUTRID **LIQUID** BENEATH MY FEET TO REMIND ME HOW **LITTLE** I UNDERSTAND OF THE WORLD OUTSIDE MY FATHER'S RETREAT.

"LIKE **MANHATTAN'S** WAY OF **LIFE**, COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF ANOTHER MAN'S **MIND** WILL ALWAYS BE **BEYOND** ME.

HEY, YOU!

YEAH, YOU WITH THE **HAIR** ON YOUR HEAD!

WHADDAYA DOIN' ON THE **STREETS** AT THIS HOUR DRESSED LIKE **THAT** FOR, HUH?

I AM **SORRY**, OFFICER. I MEANT NO **OFFENSE**.

OH, A **WISE** GUY, HUH? I'M **SICK** 'O YOU KIDS GIVIN' ME THAT PHONY "**POLITENESS**" CRUD WHEN YER **LOOKIN'** AT ME--

-- AN' THEN **LAUGHIN'** UP YER **SLEEVE** WHEN I TURN AROUND FOR HAVIN' **PUT** ME ON!

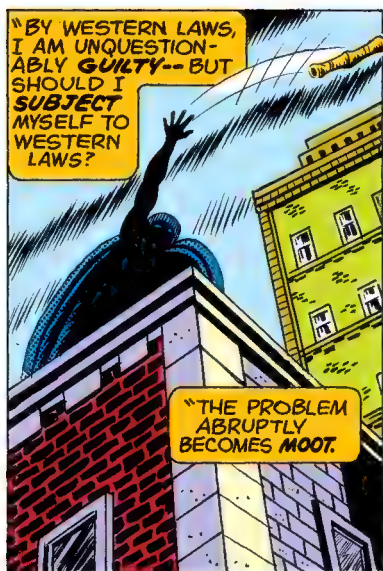
NOBODY TALKS LIKE THAT, KID!

BESIDES, NOW THAT I **THINK** ABOUT IT, YOU LOOK TO ME LIKE THAT GUY THE **SARGE** TOLD US ABOUT THIS MORNIN'--

--THE GUY THE **ENGLISH** COPS ARE LOOKIN' FOR, FOR THE MURDER O' SOME **DOCTOR** OVER THERE.

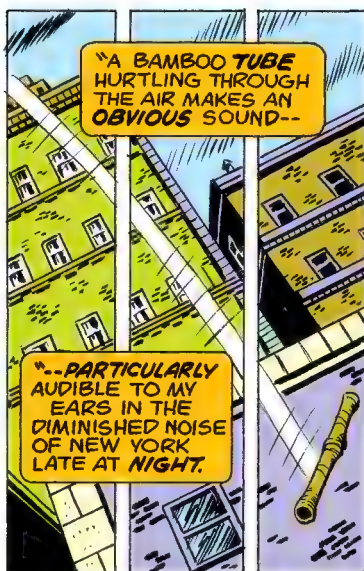
"I **KILLED** DR. PETRIE WHILE STILL UNDER MY FATHER'S **INFLUENCE**--

"--YET THAT IS NO JUSTIFICATION TO **ME**! NEITHER CAN IT BE TO **HIM**!



"BY WESTERN LAWS, I AM UNQUESTIONABLY **GUILTY**-- BUT SHOULD I **SUBJECT** MYSELF TO WESTERN LAWS?"

"THE PROBLEM ABRUPTLY BECOMES **MOOT**."



"A **BAMBOO TUBE** HURTLING THROUGH THE AIR MAKES AN **OBVIOUS SOUND**--

"--**PARTICULARLY** AUDIBLE TO MY EARS IN THE **DIMINISHED NOISE** OF NEW YORK **LATE AT NIGHT**."



"HOWEVER, THE **OFFICER** SEEMS **OBLIVIOUS** UNTIL IT STRIKES THE **STREET**."



SO **THAT'S** YER **GAME**, HUH? **DRAWIN'** MY **ATTENTION** SO YER **HIPPIE** FRIENDS CAN **ATTACK** ME FROM THE **ROOFTOPS**, HUH?

I DO NOT KNOW THE TERM "**HIPPIE**."

"AS **CHILDREN**, M'NAI AND I USED TO **THROW MESSAGES** TO EACH OTHER IN THIS MANNER AFTER THE **TORCHES** WERE **EXTINGUISHED**."



WELL, **BUDDY**, IF **ONE MORE BRICK** COMES **FLYIN'** AT ME, YER **GONNA REGRET** IT! **BETTER TELL** YER **FRIENDS**!

"M'NAI'S **ASSOCIATION** WITH **FU MANCHU** PREVENTS HIM FROM **REVEALING** HIMSELF TO THIS **OFFICER**. I **CANNOT** **CONTACT** MY **FRIEND** WITH THE **OFFICER WATCHING** ME."



TOK!

HARLAN'S



"HE **FALLS HEAVILY**, BUT **CONSCIOUSNESS** WILL BE HIS AGAIN IN **FIVE MINUTES** AT MOST."

"I **SLIDE** THE **PARCHMENT** FROM ITS **CYLINDER** AND **READ**."



"**HONORED FRIEND**, THE **MORNING SUN** WILL **SHED** ITS **WARMTH** UPON HIM WHOSE **PATH** IS MOST **NEARLY CORRECT**."

MEET ME AT THE **STREETS** NAMED **BROADWAY** AND **HOUSTON**. M'NAI."



A **CHALLENGE!**

A **CHALLENGE** TO THE **DEATH!**

"SCENES MARCH
IN MY BRAIN,
UNBIDDEN.



"IN ONE, M'NAI STANDS
OVER MY LIFELESS BODY.
IT IS AN UNHAPPY THOUGHT.



"AND IN BETWEEN
ARE THE HALF-
BREED BOY AND
THE BLACK BOY,
WARMING EACH
OTHER WITH
FRIENDSHIP.



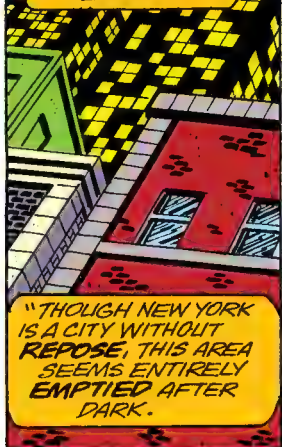
"IN ANOTHER, I STAND
OVER M'NAI'S LIFELESS
BODY. IT IS A TERRIBLE
THOUGHT.



"BUT I MUST NO
LONGER THINK
OF BOYS. I MUST
THINK OF
MEN.



"THE SOUTHERN
SECTION OF
MANHATTAN
ISLAND.



"THOUGH NEW YORK
IS A CITY WITHOUT
REPOSE, THIS AREA
SEEMS ENTIRELY
EMPTY AFTER
DARK.

"IT LOOMS WITH
GREAT GRAY WARE-
HOUSES, AND
TWISTS WITH SUDDEN
ALLEYS THAT MELT
AWAY THE MIDDLE
OF BLOCKS.



"IN ANY DIRECTION,
I HEAR ONLY MY
HEART.

"BUT NOW, A SHADOW--



"--HURLED INTO
ENORMITY AGAINST
A ROTTED BUILDING'S
WALL BY SOME LOW-
LYING LAMP AROUND
THE CORNER.

"I SLIP FORWARD
THE COOL WIND MAKING
MORE SOUND THAN MY
PASSAGE --BUT NO
ONE IS THERE.



"NOW
ANOTHER
SHADOW,
FARTHER
UP AN
ALLEY.

"ALL OF MY TRAINED
SENSES FUNCTIONING
FULLY, I GLIDE INTO
THE WAITING DARK,
SEARCHING...



SNAP

"BEHIND
ME!"



"HE STEPS OUT SOLIDLY,
A LIVING SHADOW IN
A REALM OF SHADOWS.

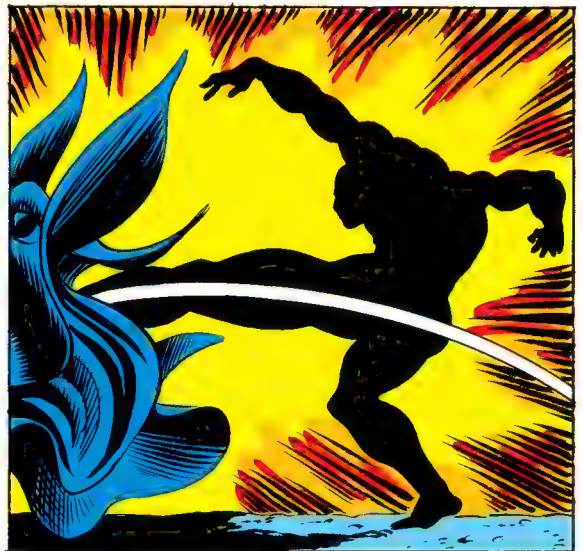
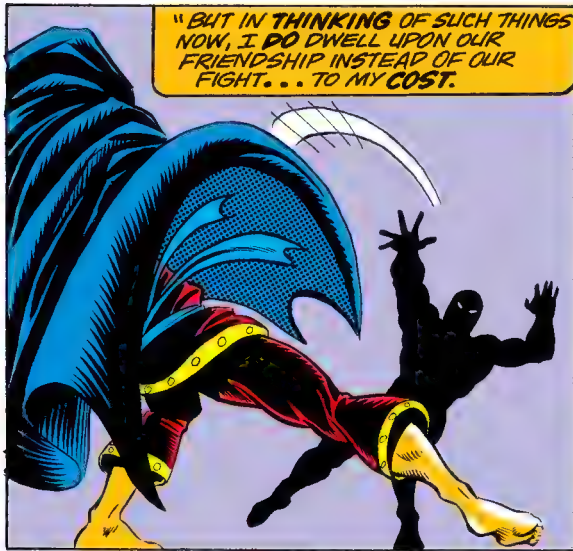
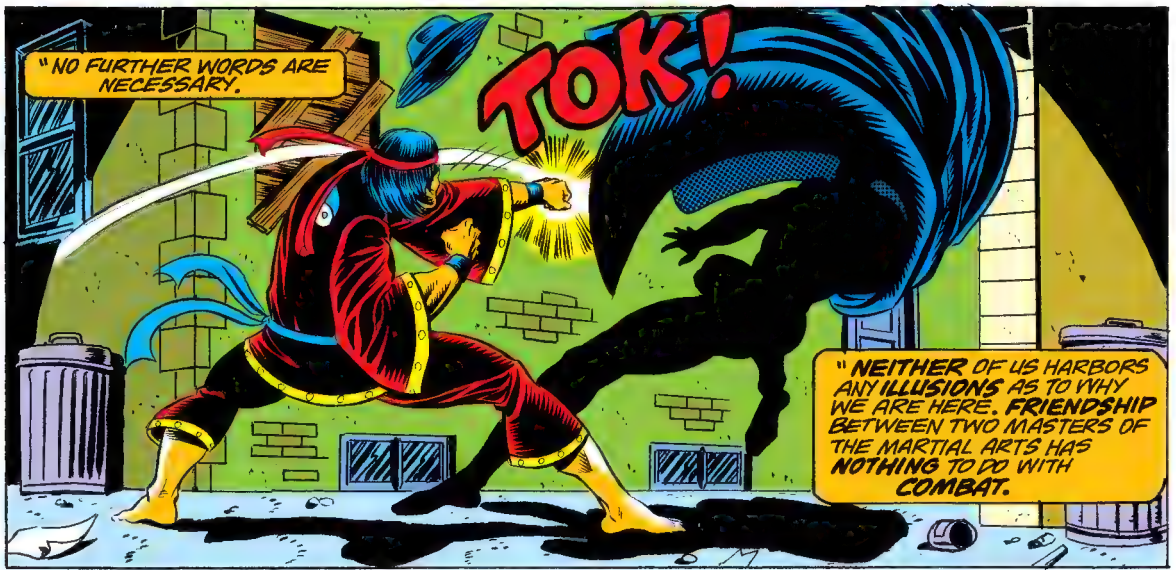


"FAR AWAY,
ACROSS WATER,
A CLOCK TOLLS
MIDNIGHT.

I SEE, MY BROTHER,
THAT YOU HAVE COME
TO DIE.

NO,
M'NAI. I
HAVE COME
TO LIVE.







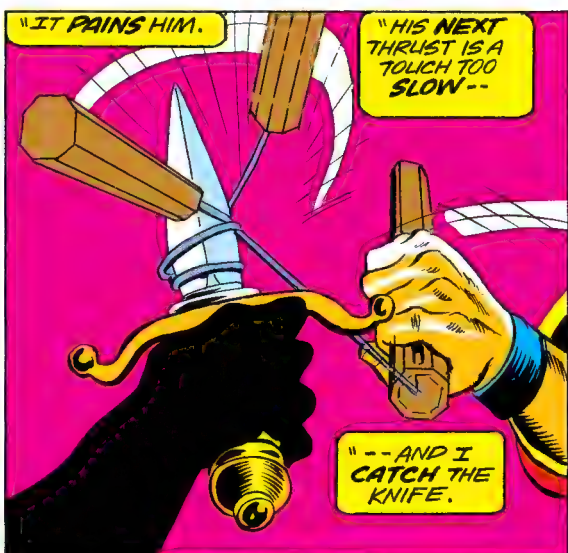
"HE KNOWS I COME PREPARED. MY NUNCHAKU WHIZZ FREE EVEN AS THE ALLEY WALLS RETURN THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE.



"HE STRIKES WELL. I RECOIL WELL. HE MISSES.



"I STEP AROUND THE BLADE AS HE RECOVERS HIMSELF, SMASHING HIM FOUR TIMES RUNNING WITH THE ON-SWEEPING MOTION OF MY ARM.



"IT PAINS HIM.

"HIS NEXT THRUST IS A TOUCH TOO SLOW--

"--AND I CATCH THE KNIFE.

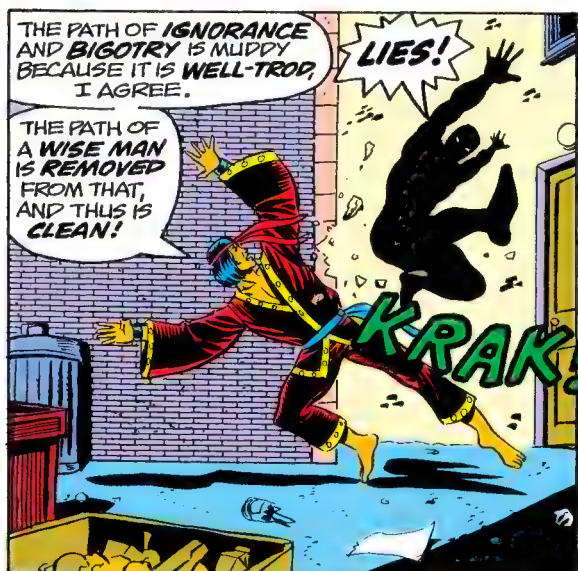
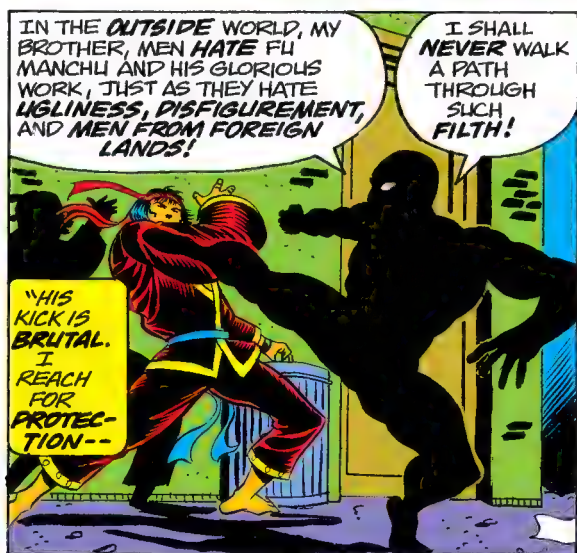
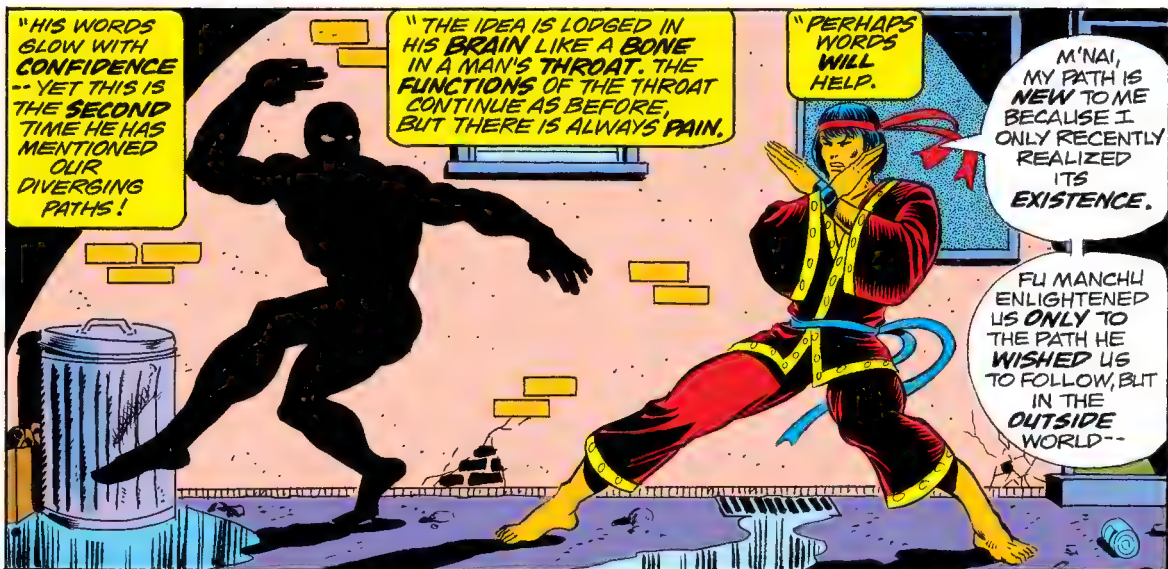


"A TWIST TO PULL IT FROM HIS HAND, AND NOW--



WEAPONS WERE A MERCY OF A SORT, SHANG-CHI. IN UNARMED COMBAT, I SHALL BE YOUR SUPERIOR--

-- FOR YOUR PATH IS NEW TO YOU, AND MINE IS AS OLD AS MY MEMORIES!





NEW YORK'S FINEST DON'T GO FOR BEATIN' UP COPS, PALLY, AN' WE'RE NOT AS INEPT AS YOU THINK!

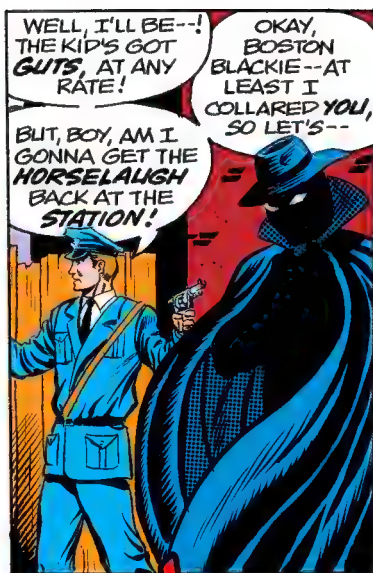
TRACKIN' YOU DOWN WAS NO HARDER THAN CHECKIN' YER DESCRIPTION, MR. SHANG-CHI, MURDERER!

NOW REACH--



I SHALL FIND YOU LATER, MY BROTHER.

HEY!



WELL, I'LL BE--! THE KID'S GOT GUTS, AT ANY RATE!

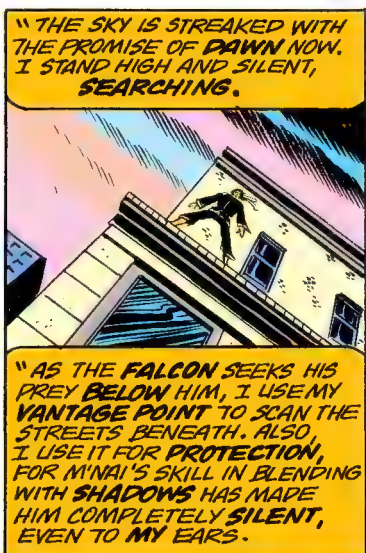
OKAY, BOSTON BLACKIE--AT LEAST I COLLARED YOU, SO LET'S--

BUT, BOY, AM I GONNA GET THE HORSELAUGH BACK AT THE STATION!



HOLY CROW!

HE'S GONE, TOO!

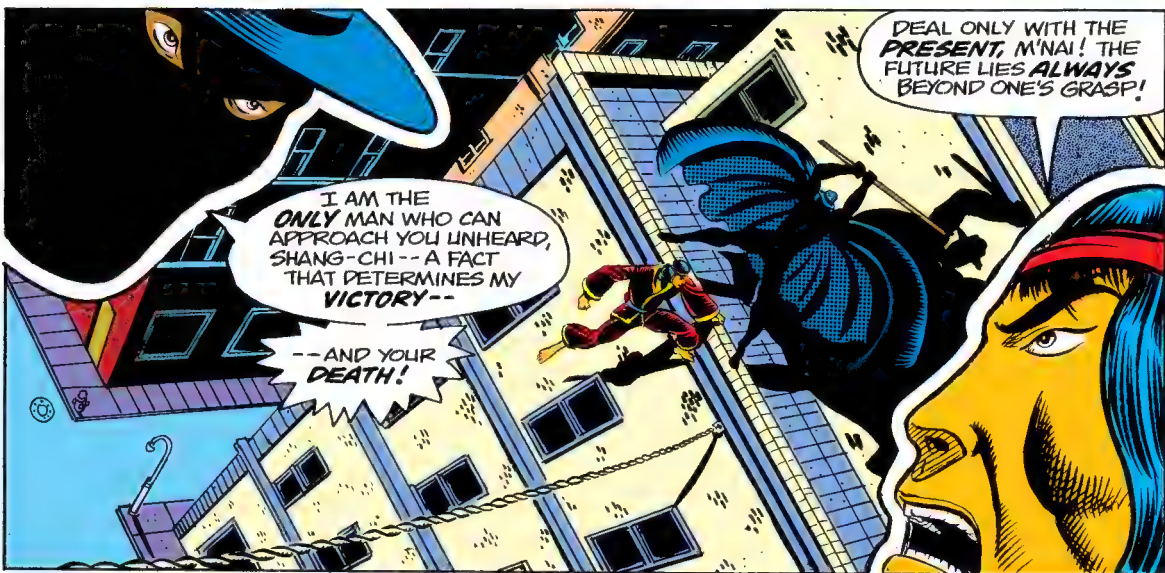


"THE SKY IS STREAKED WITH THE PROMISE OF DAWN NOW. I STAND HIGH AND SILENT, SEARCHING.

"AS THE FALCON SEEKS HIS PREY BELOW HIM, I USE MY VANTAGE POINT TO SCAN THE STREETS BENEATH. ALSO, I USE IT FOR PROTECTION, FOR M'NAI'S SKILL IN BLENDING WITH SHADOWS HAS MADE HIM COMPLETELY SILENT, EVEN TO MY EARS.



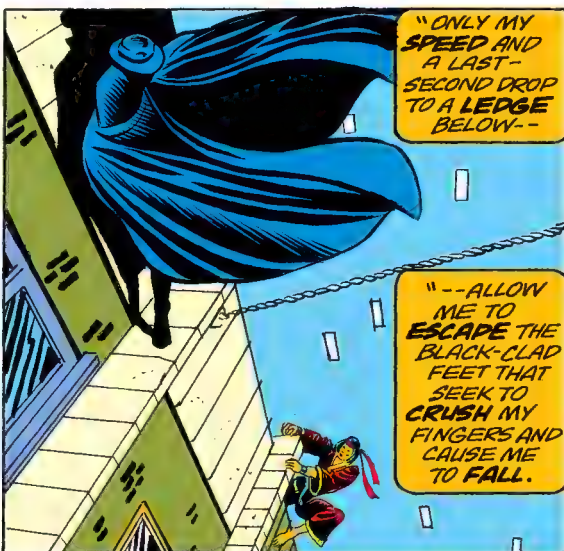
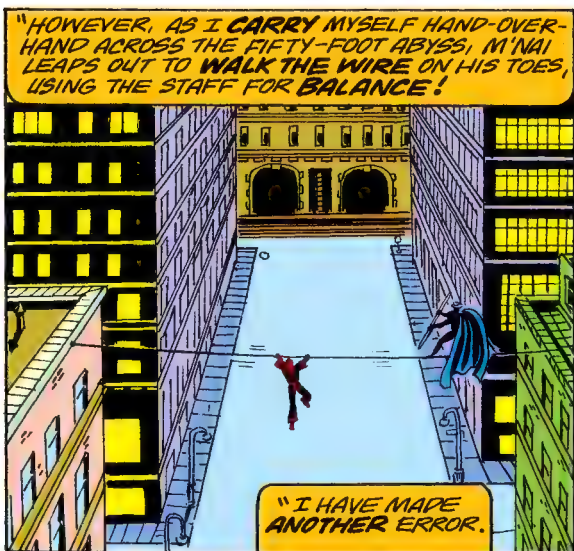
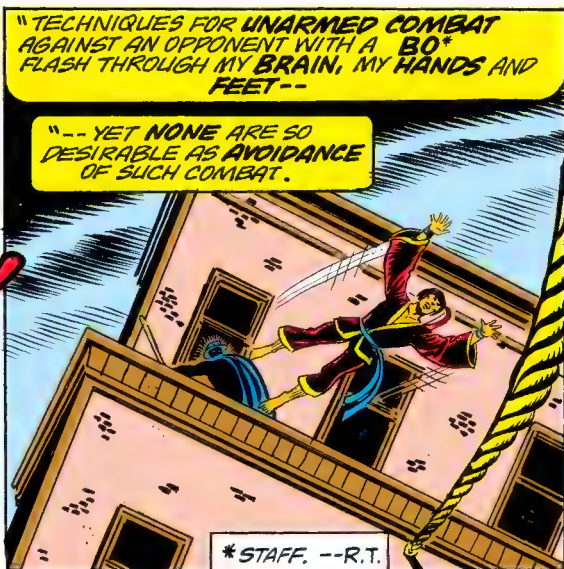
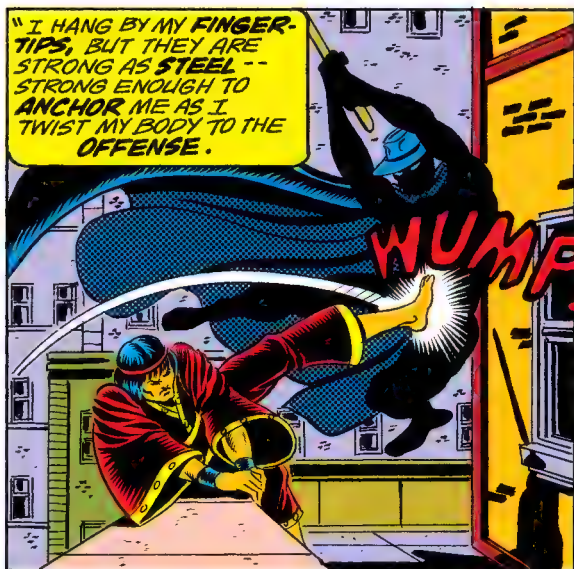
WOK!

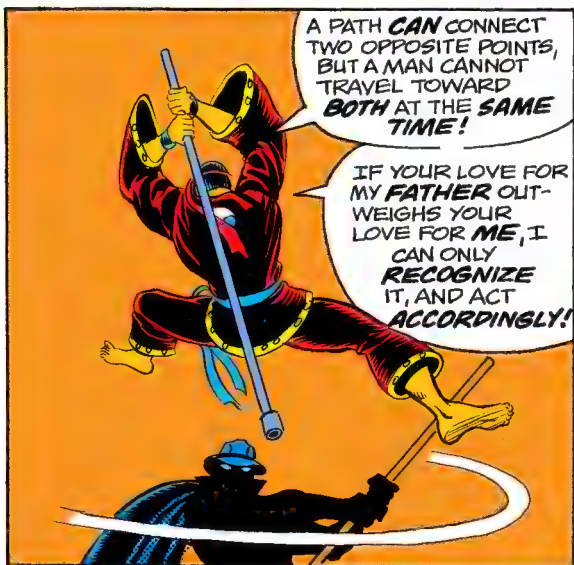


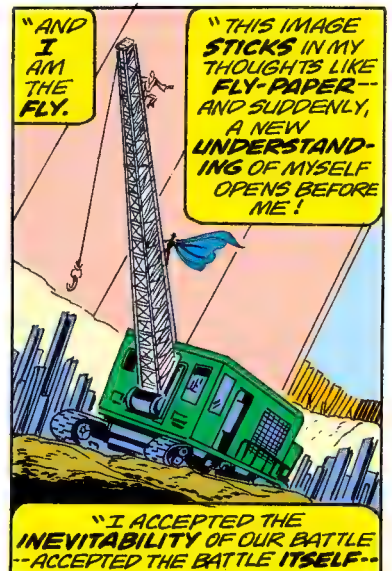
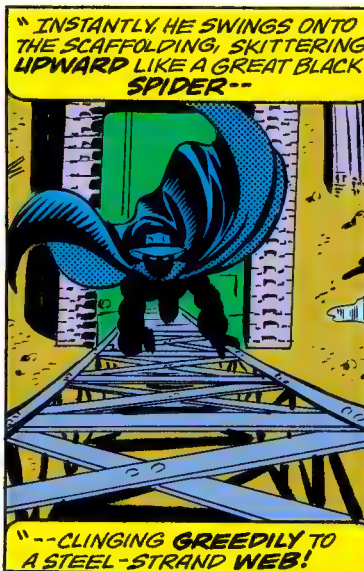
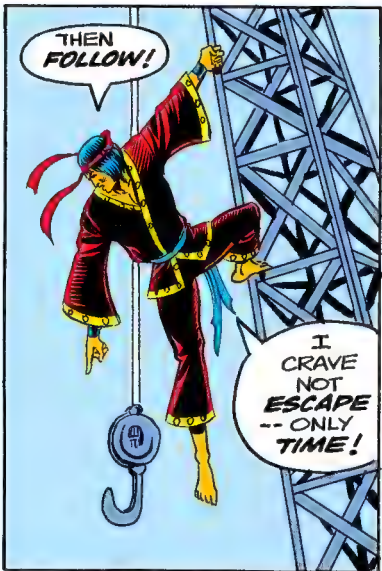
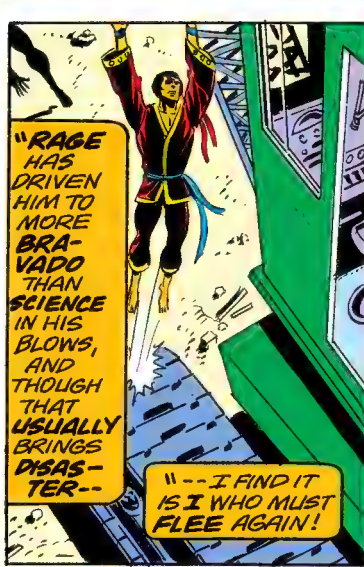
I AM THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN APPROACH YOU UNHEARD, SHANG-CHI-- A FACT THAT DETERMINES MY VICTORY--

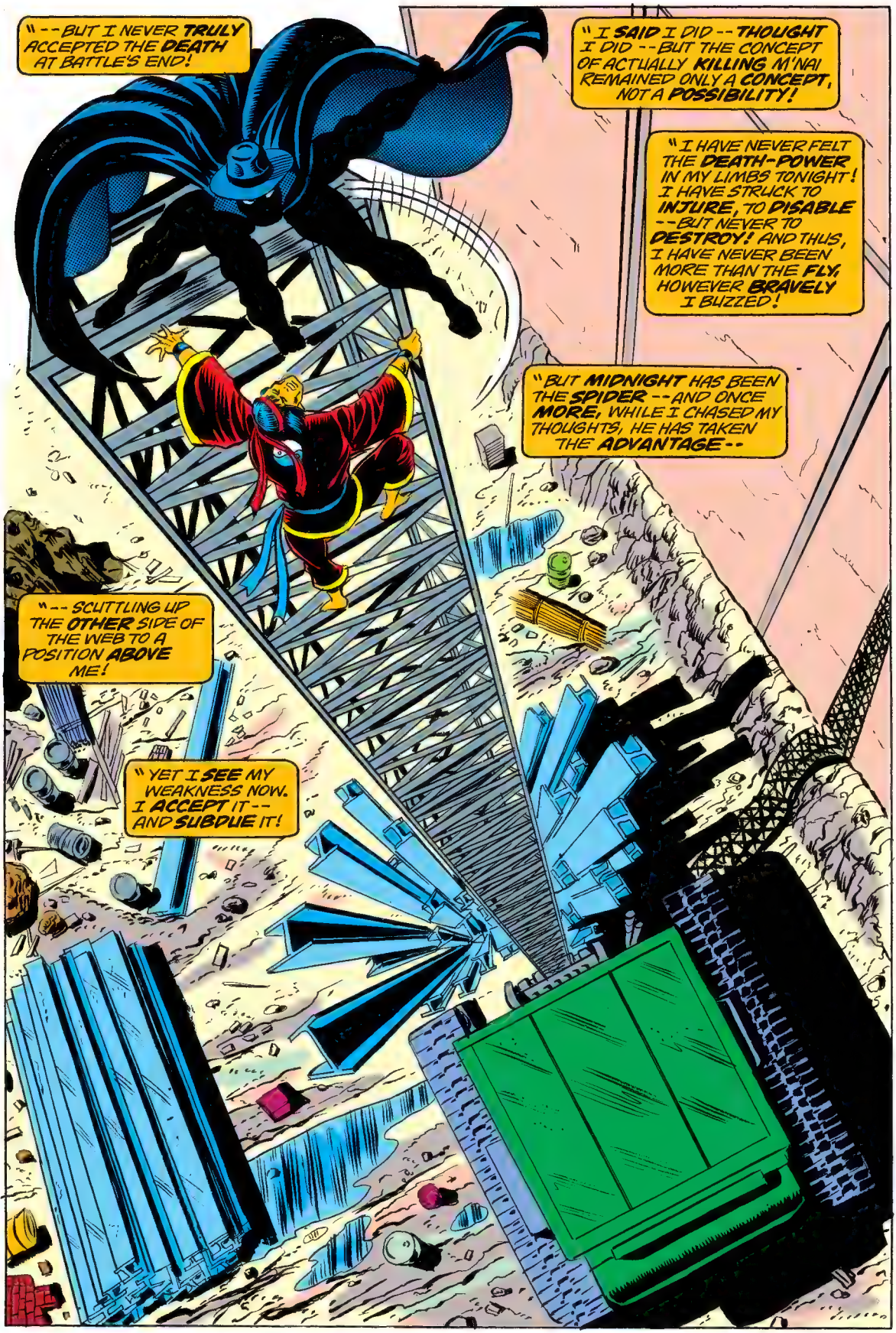
--AND YOUR DEATH!

DEAL ONLY WITH THE PRESENT, M'NAI! THE FUTURE LIES ALWAYS BEYOND ONE'S GRASP!









"-- BUT I NEVER **TRULY** ACCEPTED THE **DEATH** AT BATTLE'S END!

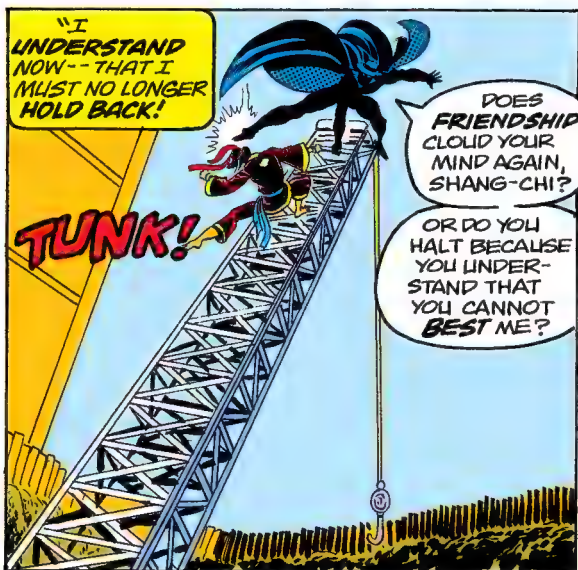
"I SAID I DID -- THOUGHT I DID -- BUT THE CONCEPT OF ACTUALLY KILLING M'NAI REMAINED ONLY A **CONCEPT**, NOT A **POSSIBILITY**!

"I HAVE NEVER FELT THE **DEATH-POWER** IN MY LIMBS TONIGHT! I HAVE STRUCK TO **INJURE**, TO **DISABLE** -- BUT NEVER TO **DESTROY**! AND THUS, I HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE THAN THE **FLY**, HOWEVER **BRAVELY** I BUZZED!

"BUT **MIDNIGHT** HAS BEEN THE **SPIDER** -- AND ONCE **MORE**, WHILE I CHASED MY THOUGHTS, HE HAS TAKEN THE **ADVANTAGE**--

"-- SCUTTling UP THE **OTHER SIDE** OF THE **WEB** TO A **POSITION ABOVE** ME!

"YET I SEE MY **WEAKNESS NOW**. I **ACCEPT** IT-- AND **SUBDUE** IT!

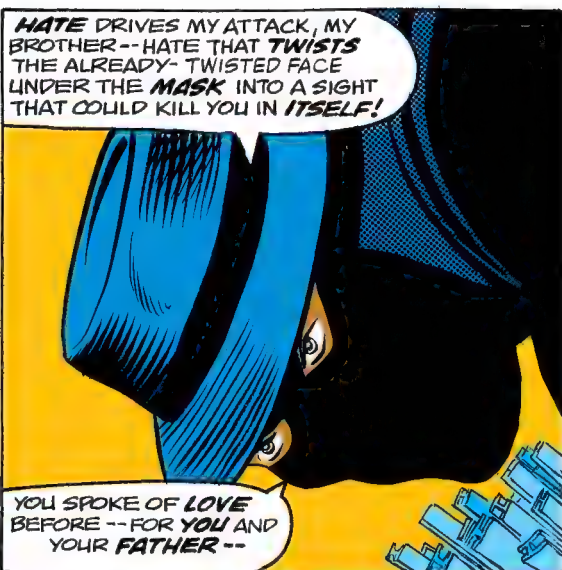


"I UNDERSTAND NOW-- THAT I MUST NO LONGER HOLD BACK!"

DOES FRIENDSHIP CLOUD YOUR MIND AGAIN, SHANG-CHI?

OR DO YOU HALT BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CANNOT BEST ME?

TUNK!



HATE DRIVES MY ATTACK, MY BROTHER-- HATE THAT **TWISTS** THE ALREADY- TWISTED FACE UNDER THE **MASK** INTO A SIGHT THAT COULD KILL YOU IN **ITSELF!**

YOU SPOKE OF LOVE BEFORE --FOR YOU AND YOUR FATHER--



--BUT LOVE IS NOT MINE TO HAVE-- LET ALONE TO GIVE!

WOW

YOU EASED MY DAYS AS A YOUTH, YET I DO NOT NEED YOU FOR THE REMAINDER OF MY DAYS!



I NEED NO ONE!

I AM ALONE!

PAK!



I UNDERSTAND IT NOW! I AM NO MAN LIKE OTHER MEN! I CANNOT BE THAT! I AM A WEAPON!

"HIS KICKS HAVE BLOODED MY FACE, YET NOW HIS VOICE CRESCENDOS IN BLIND PASSION--

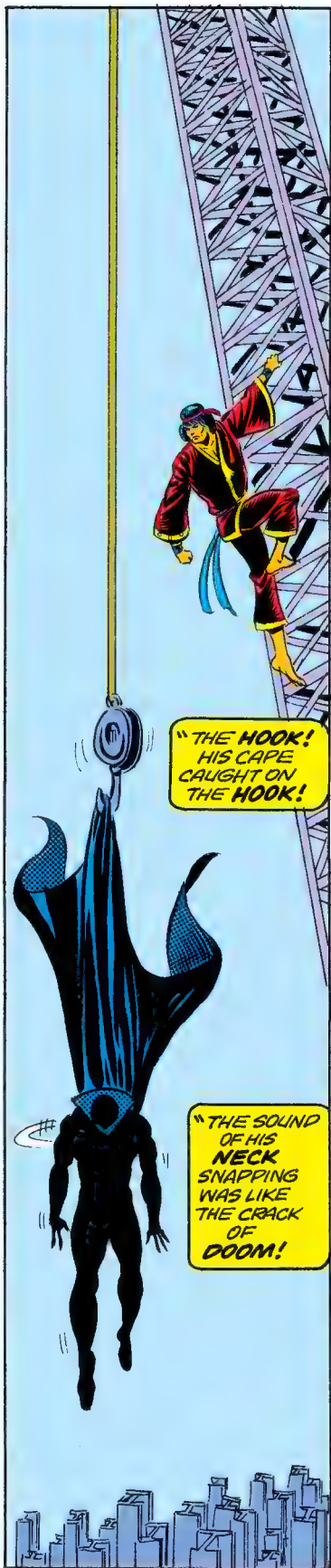
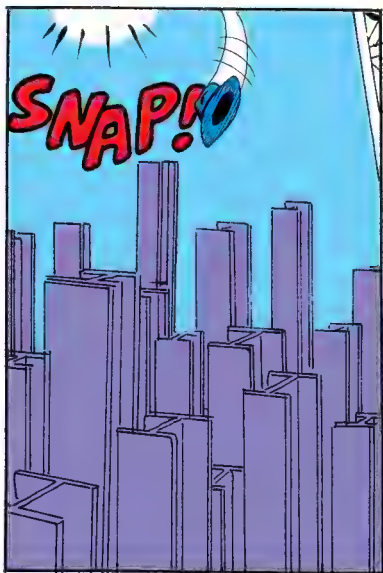
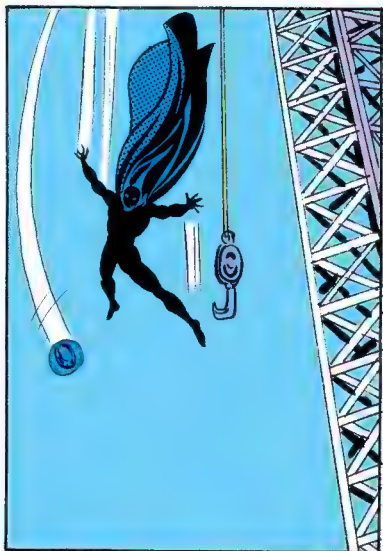


"--AND NOW I SWING AWAY!"

"HIS WEIGHT ALL RIDES IN HIS FOOT-- AND HIS FOOT ENCOUNTERS NOTHING BUT AIR!

"OFF-BALANCE, HE CANNOT CONTROL HIS FALL AS BEFORE! I SHALL HAVE HIM!

ALIEE!



"THE HOOK!
HIS CAPE
CAUGHT ON
THE HOOK!"

"THE SOUND
OF HIS
NECK
SNAPPING
WAS LIKE
THE CRACK
OF
DOOM!"

"I CLIMB NUMBLY FROM MY PERCH. STRANGELY -- OR PERHAPS NOT SO STRANGELY-- A THOUGHT SLIPS UNCALLED FROM THE PAST."



"I ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE HIS FACE, TO SEE WHAT DROVE HIM."

"NOW IS MY CHANCE, I KNOW. I HAVE ONLY TO CLIMB AGAIN, AND PULL HIM TO ME --"

"-- BUT EVEN WITHOUT THE SEEING, I NOW KNOW THE SCARS THAT PLAGUED HIM."



"FARE-
WELL,
M'NAI...
MY
BROTHER."



NEXT: THE RETURN OF SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH AND THE LAIR OF THE LOST!

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

20¢
CC

17
APR
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU™

NOW IN HIS
OWN MAG!

THEY CALL HIM
BLACKJACK!
THE MAN NOT EVEN
KUNG FU CAN SMASH!!



Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU! TM

STEVE ENGLEHART
BREATH

JIM STARLIN
MOVEMENT

AL MILGROM
FORM

TOM ORZECZOWSKI, LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS, COLORIST

ROY THOMAS
EDITOR

FEATURING CHARACTERS CREATED BY SAX ROHMER

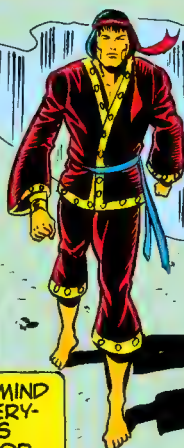
LAIR OF THE

LOST!

"THE MIND IS A PEARL, INSIDE AN OYSTER SHELL: THE SKULL."



"LIKE THE PEARL, THE MIND OCCUPIES BUT A SMALL PORTION OF THE SKULL'S VOLUME, YET IS THE MOST PRECIOUS PORTION..."



"...FOR THIS PEARL OF WISDOM CAN UNDERSTAND THE SKULL, AND THE WORLD, AND THE UNIVERSE... AND ITSELF."

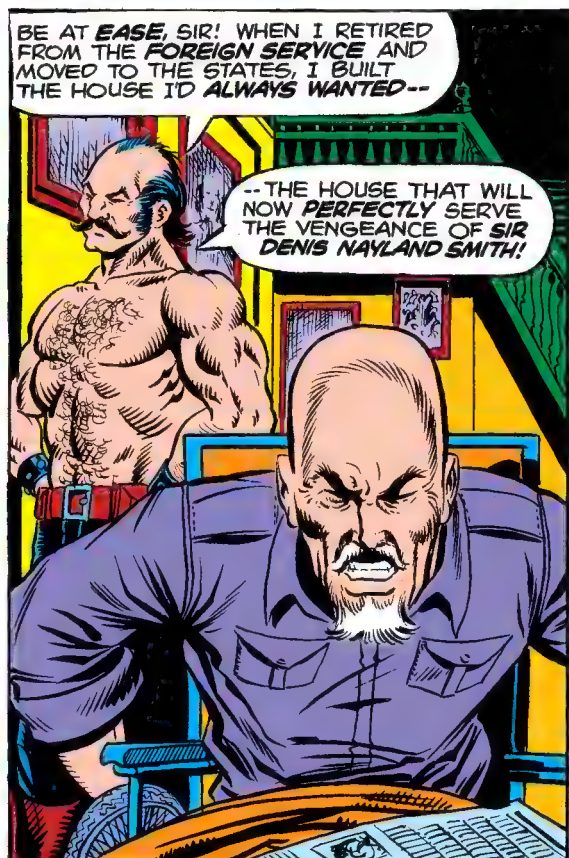
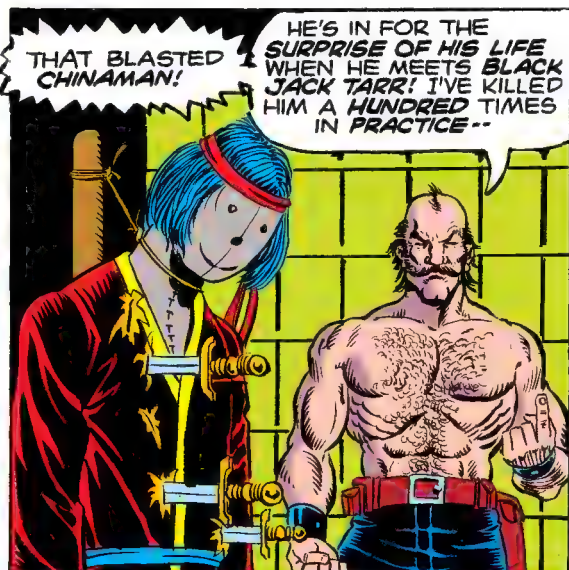
"STILL, NO MIND KNOWS EVERYTHING. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ANY MIND TO BE SURPRISED--"

"--EVEN THAT OF A MASTER OF KUNG FU!"

AND INDEED, UNKNOWN TO SHANG-CHI, THE SON OF FU MANCHU, THERE ARE MANY EVENTS IN MOTION AT THIS VERY MOMENT--



LET YOUR MIND FOLLOW OUR LEAD...



"IN **MOST** CASES, IT IS THOSE WHO WISH TO SURPRISE ME WHO ARE **THEMSELVES** TAKEN UNAWARES!"



NOT ME, MAN!



"I FIGHT ONLY WHEN **ATTACKED**. THUS, I ALLOW HIM TO FLEE... THOUGH **NO** EXPERIENCE DO I 'FORGET'."

WHEN YOU **WROTE** ME, AS AN OLD MATE, SIR, TO TELL ME OF OLD PETRIE'S DEATH AT THE YELLOW HANDS OF THIS **SHANG-CHI**...

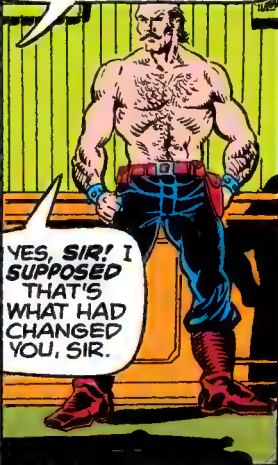


...WELL, I KNEW MY **MURDER MANSION**, AS I CALLS IT, WAS JUST WHAT WAS **NEEDED**! I'M PLEASED YOU SAW IT MY WAY, SIR.



IT IS ONLY **JUSTICE**, BLACK JACK.

FU MANCHU HAS CHANGED THE RULES, SENDING HIS SON TO **ASSASSINATE** A MAN THE FIEND HAD SWORN NOT TO HARM AGAIN!



YES, SIR! I SUPPOSED THAT'S WHAT HAD CHANGED YOU, SIR.

CHANGED ME? HMM...



YES, BLACK JACK, THAT'S WHAT CHANGED ME--THAT CONTEMPTIBLE **MURDER**--

--AND **FU MANCHU'S** DESTRUCTION OF MY LEGS!

BUT **FU MANCHU** AND HIS SON SHALL **PAY** FOR THEIR INFAMY!!



AND **SHANG-CHI** SHALL PAY VERY **SOON**!

"THE SOUND OF MY ASSAILANT'S FLIGHT FADES. I TURN, TO RESUME MY MEDITATION--



"-- BUT MY ATTENTION IS SNAGGED.

"SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH, FORMERLY OF THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE AND NOTED FOE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIME, HAS TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN RYE, NEW YORK. IT WAS LEARNED TODAY. NAYLAND SMITH--



"NAYLAND SMITH. THE NAME CONJURES SENSATIONS OF A CLEAR-EYED, VIGOROUS MAN-- AND THE CRUEL MURDER I VISITED UPON HIS FRIEND, WHILE STILL BELIEVING MY FATHER'S UNTRUTHS.



"WE MET IN ENGLAND. NOW WE ARE BOTH IN AMERICA.

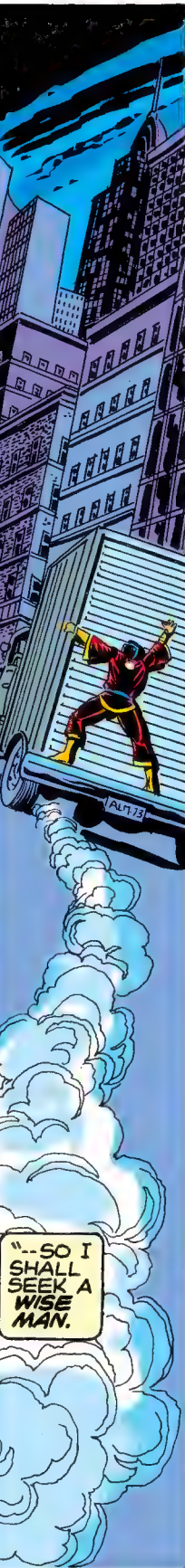


"I FEEL A NEED TO EXPLAIN MY ACT TO HIM, AND ASK IF HE, AS AN OFFICER OF WESTERN LAW, BELIEVES I SHOULD SURRENDER MYSELF.

"I BELIEVED IN ANOTHER LAW WHEN I KILLED-- THE LAW OF FU MANCHU. SHOULD WESTERN LAW JUDGE ME?



"I DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH TO DECIDE--

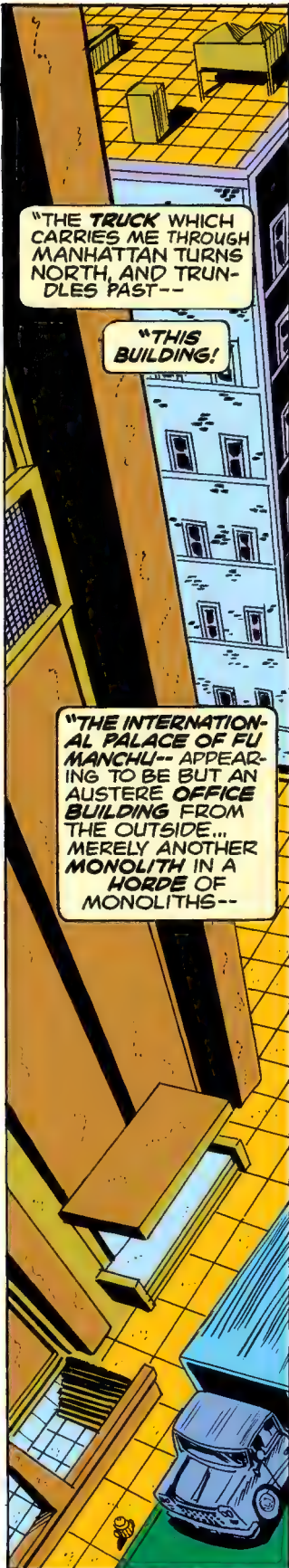


"--SO I SHALL SEEK A WISE MAN.

"THE TRUCK WHICH CARRIES ME THROUGH MANHATTAN TURNS NORTH, AND TRUNDLES PAST--

"THIS BUILDING!

"THE INTERNATIONAL PALACE OF FU MANCHU-- APPEARING TO BE BUT AN AUSTERE OFFICE BUILDING FROM THE OUTSIDE... MERELY ANOTHER MONOLITH IN A HORDE OF MONOLITHS--



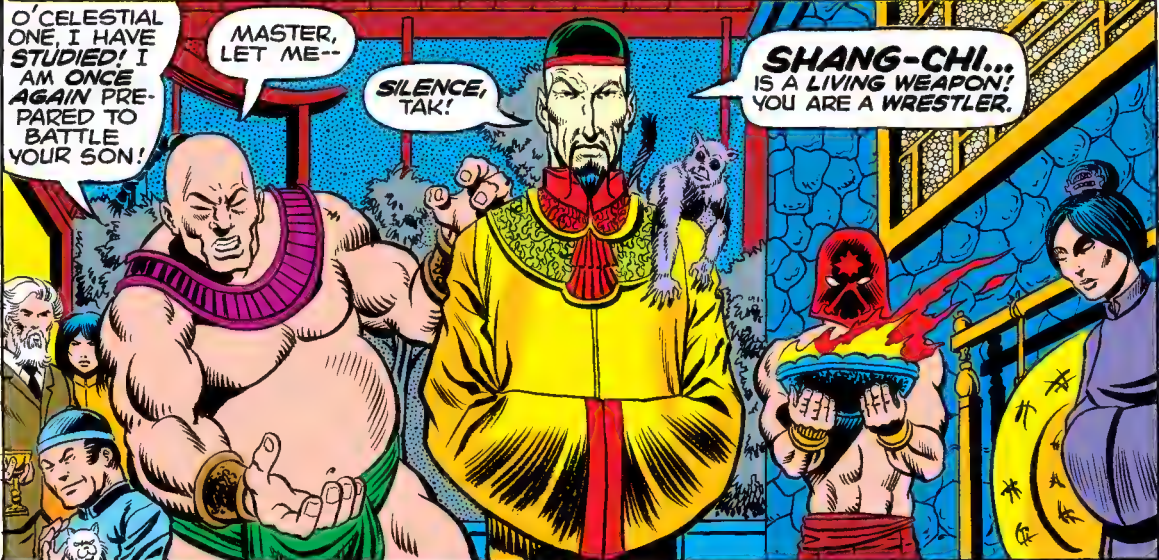
"--YET CONTAINING **WITHIN** ITS INSCRUTABLE WALLS A GREAT SECTION, CONSTRUCTED TO APPEAR TO BE **OLD CHINA...** THE CHINA INTO WHICH MY FATHER WAS **BORN**.

O'CELESTIAL ONE, I HAVE STUDIED! I AM ONCE AGAIN PREPARED TO BATTLE YOUR SON!

MASTER, LET ME--

SILENCE, TAK!

SHANG-CHI...
IS A LIVING WEAPON!
YOU ARE A WRESTLER.



DID HE NOT OVERCOME MIDNIGHT, WHO MATCHED HIS PROWESS IN THE MARTIAL ARTS?

HOWEVER, SHANG-CHI WAS RAISED ENTIRELY UNDER MY SUPERVISION, AT MY OTHER HOME IN HONAN--

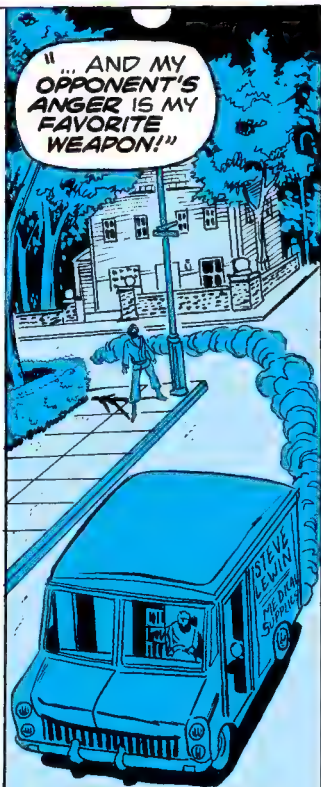
--AND THUS KNOWS LITTLE OF THE WESTERN WORLD OUTSIDE, INTO WHICH HE HAS EXILED HIMSELF.

HE KNOWS NOTHING OF SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH.

FOR SIXTY YEARS, SIR DENIS HAS BELIEVED HIMSELF A MAN WITH A MISSION: TO DESTROY ME.

YET I LIVE, AND I DO NOT AGE... WHILE HE SEES HIS SKIN SHRIVEL HIS LEGS DRAG, HIS FRIENDS DIE!

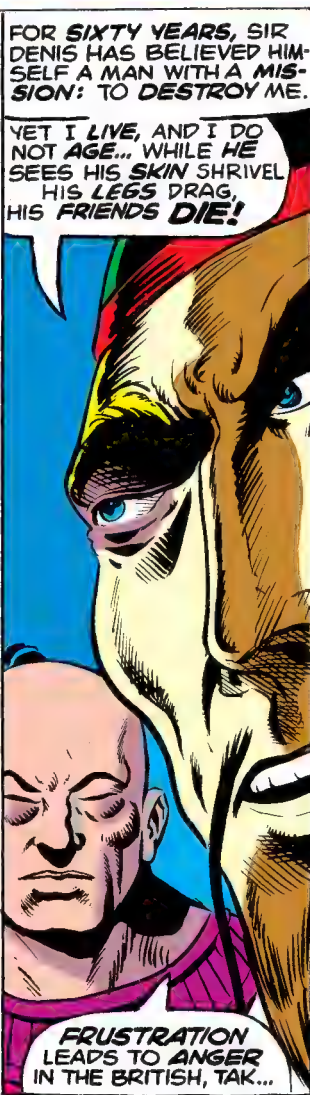
"... AND MY OPPONENT'S ANGER IS MY FAVORITE WEAPON!"



"THE DRIVER IN RYE, NEW YORK, SEES ME AS I LEAVE HIS TRUCK, UNLIKE THE FIVE OTHERS WHOSE VEHICLES I SECRETLY BOARDED TO EVENTUALLY REACH THIS PLACE.

"BUT HE DOES NOT RAISE AN ALARM.

FRUSTRATION LEADS TO ANGER IN THE BRITISH, TAK...



"I AM CONFUSED. SINCE LEAVING HONAN, I HAVE BEEN BRIEFLY IN LONDON, TO KILL DR. PETRIE--

"-- THEN, AFTER **TRANSPORT** ON MY FATHER'S **AEROPLANE**, IN **NEW YORK CITY**, WHERE I SPOKE WITH MY MOTHER AND MY FATHER, BEFORE **LEAVING** THEM.

"YET NEITHER CITY HAS PREPARED ME FOR THE PLACIDITY OF RYE, NEW YORK. I DID NOT SUPPOSE WESTERN MEN UNDERSTOOD CALMNESS.

"AH! A TELEPHONE BOOTH.

"THE BOOK WITHIN HAS NO LISTING UNDER 'NAYLAND,' 'SMITH,' OR 'SIR.'

"THE LEDGER IS NOT KEPT CURRENT, IT SEEMS...

"... BUT CERTAINLY THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE KNOW THE LOCATION OF A WISE MAN IN THEIR MIDST.

"I PRONOUNCE EACH SYLLABLE CLEARLY AS I POSE MY QUESTION...

SMITH? SURE, MISTER-- I READ THE PAPERS. HE TOOK A PLACE RIGHT ON LONG ISLAND SOUND. LISTEN--

"DIRECTIONS FOLLOW.

"I THANK THE MAN, AND WALK BRISKLY AWAY.

CHIEF-- HE'S IN TOWN. YEAH-- ON HIS WAY.

NAH-- HE AIN'T WISE. GET READY FOR 'IM!

"WHY DO AMERICAN CONSPIRATORS WHISPER SO LOUDLY?

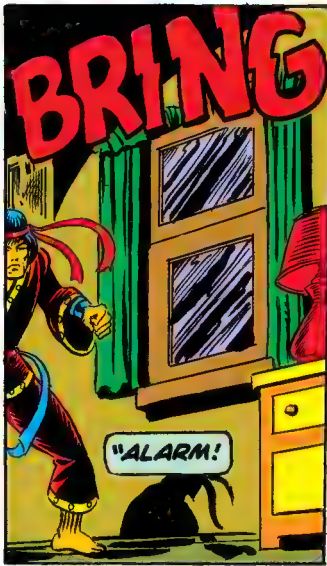
"SO I HAVE WALKED INTO A TRAP!

"KNOWING OF A CONSPIRACY AGAINST ME, I TAKE THE UTMOST PRECAUTIONS. I AM NOT SEEN AGAIN--

"I ENTER NAYLAND SMITH'S HOUSE AS I ENTERED DR. PETRIE'S-- PASSING THROUGH A WINDOW WITH NO MORE NOISE THAN THE MOONLIGHT.

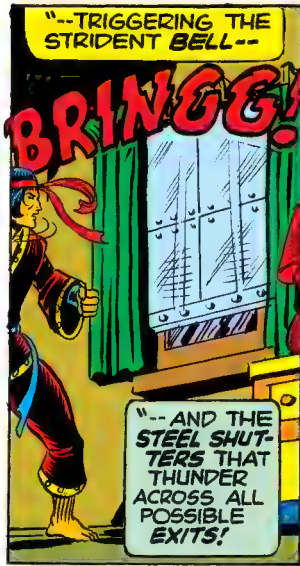
"-- EITHER BY COMPLACENT TRUCK DRIVERS OR NERVOUS GUARDS.

"MY EARS STRAIN FOR THE SLIGHTEST SOUND...



"I SEE THE CAUSE!"

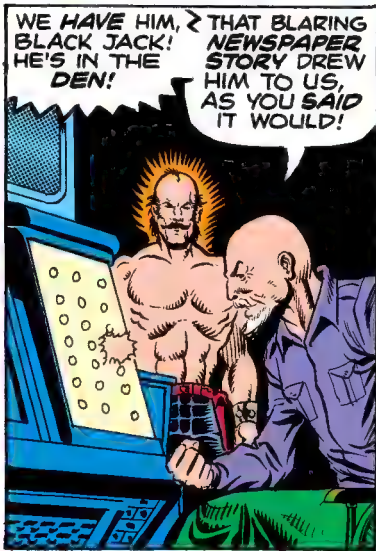
"I BLOCKED AN INVISIBLE BEAM OF LIGHT--"



"-- AND THE STEEL SHUTTERS THAT THUNDER ACROSS ALL POSSIBLE EXITS!"



"THAT LOVE HAS CURDLED TO HATE-- AND I AM IN GREAT DANGER!"

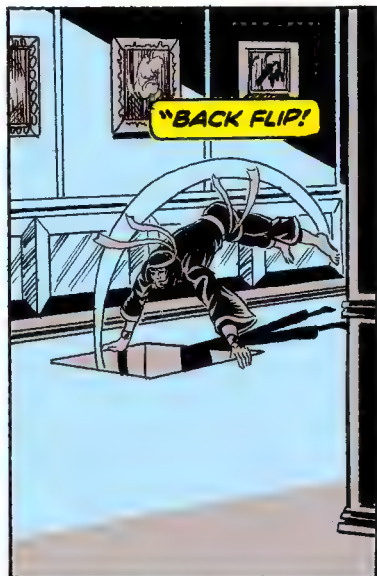


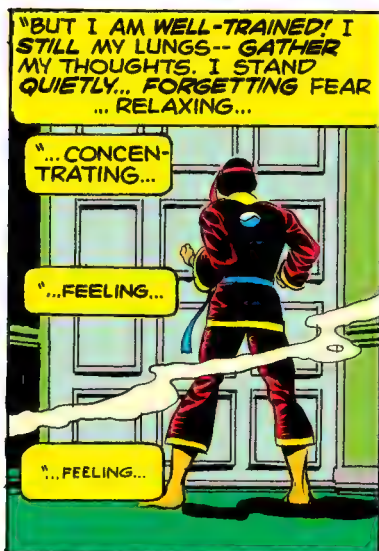
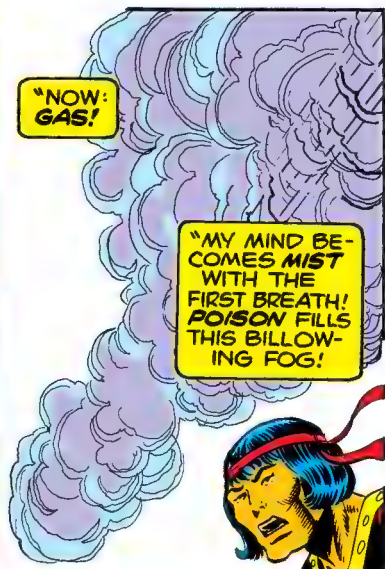
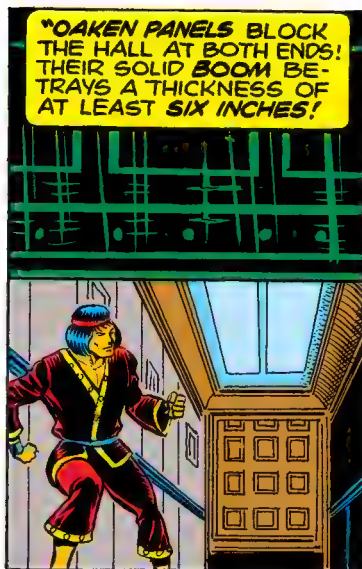
"NEWSPAPER STORY DREW HIM TO US, AS YOU SAID IT WOULD!"



--TAKE HIM!





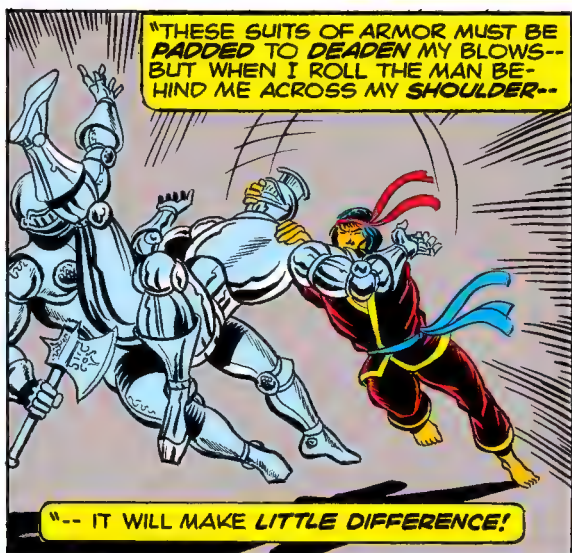


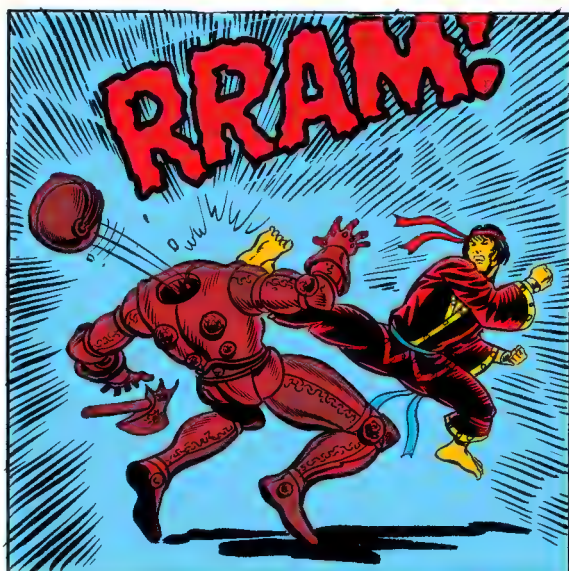
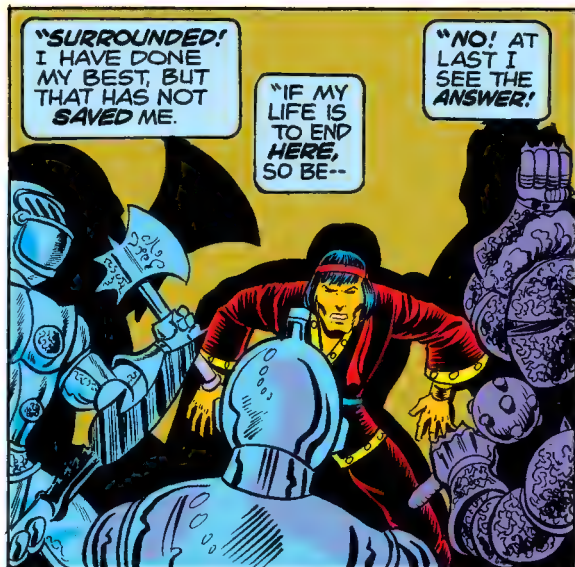
"I UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN MOVE BEFORE MY NEWEST ASSAILANT TOUCHES ME-- BUT MY INGRAINED DEFENSIVE MOVEMENT IS ARRESTED FOR A PULSEBEAT BY THE RAPID APPROACH OF THREE OTHERS--

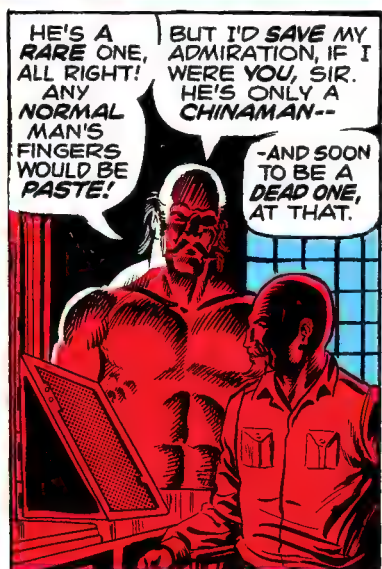
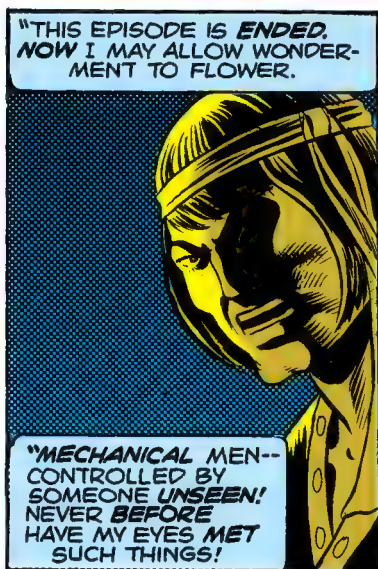
"--AND THE SUDDEN REALIZATION THAT THESE MEN WEAR AN INGENUOUS ARMOR, EFFECTIVELY DESIGNED TO PROTECT THEIR EVERY VITAL POINT!



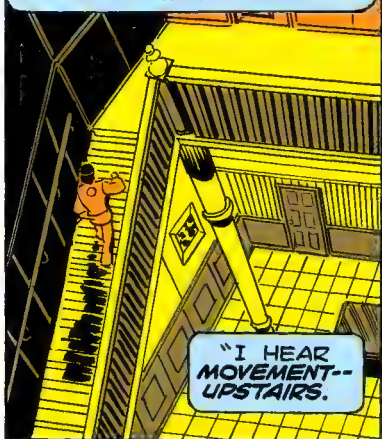
"THE SUSPENSION OF MY MOVEMENT IS FOOLISH AND NOT WITHOUT COST! BY ONE PULSEBEAT, I RECOVER MYSELF, BUT I CAN NOT AVOID THE METALLIC FOREARM THAT SWEEPS ACROSS MY THROAT--







"LIKE THE **TIGER**, NOW, I PROWL THE WILDS OF THIS HOUSE, SEARCHING **BELOW THE SURFACE** OF THINGS FOR THE WAITING **SNARE**, THE HIDDEN **FALL**."



"I HEAR MOVEMENT-- UPSTAIRS."

"MOVEMENT **CEASES** BEFORE I COMPLETE MY CLIMB, YET I **KNOW** WHERE MY NEXT OPPONENT STANDS WAITING."



"RAW PHYSICAL POWER RADIATES FROM HIM."

I AM **BLACK JACK TARR**, YOU HEATHEN ASSASSIN!

I AM THE **BLOKE** WHO'LL **KILL YOU!**



I DO NOT COME IN **VIOLENCE**, **BLACK JACK TARR**. I COME SOLELY TO ASK **ADVICE--** OF **SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH**."



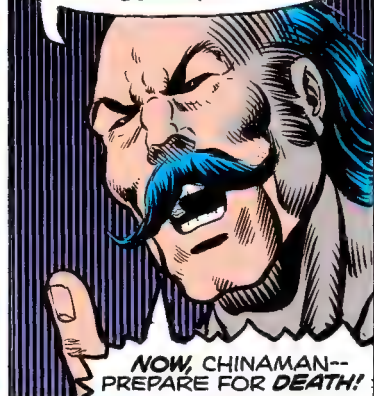
IN THE SAME MANNER YOU ASKED OLD **PETRIE** FOR ADVICE, I'VE NO DOUBT!



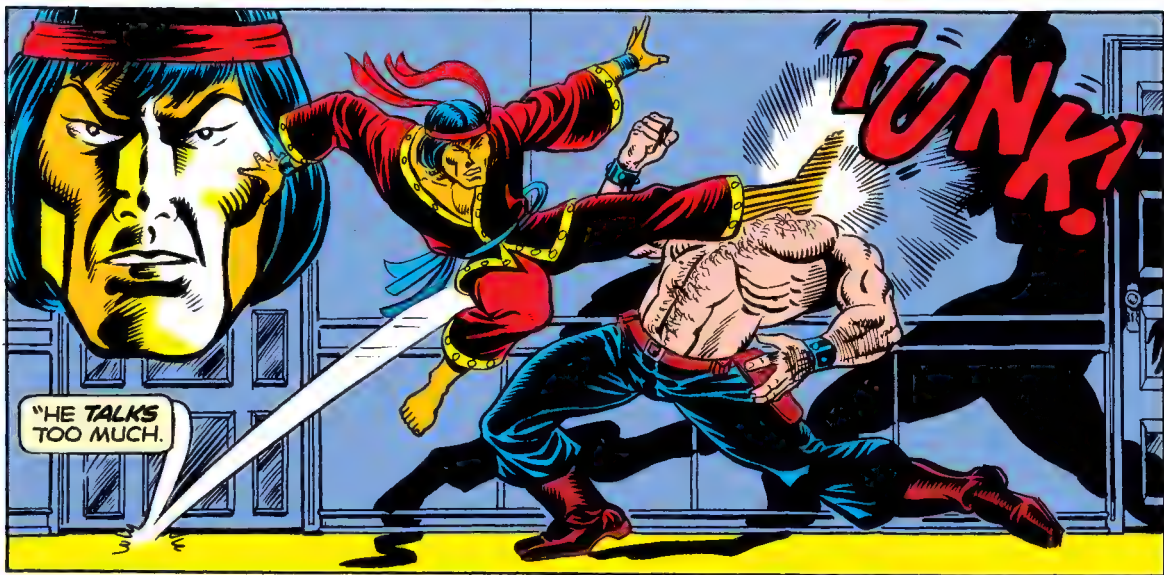
D'YOU THINK I DON'T **KNOW** YOUR CHINESE TRICKS AFTER BEING A **BRITISH AGENT** IN **HONG KONG**?

I KNOW THE WEASELY WAY YOU **THINK**, AND THE WEASELY WAY YOU **FIGHT--**

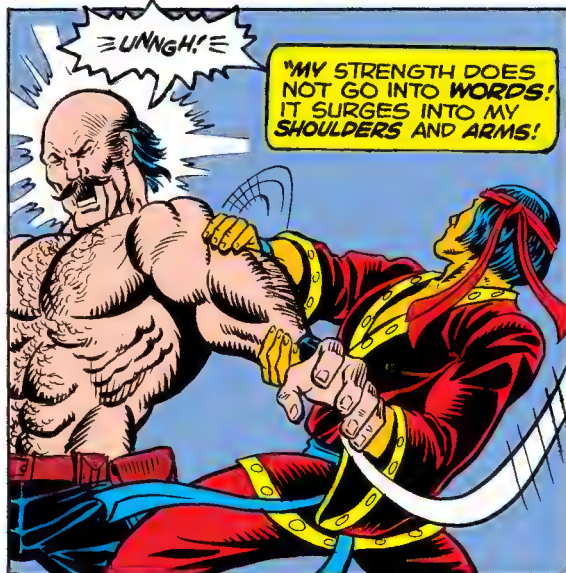
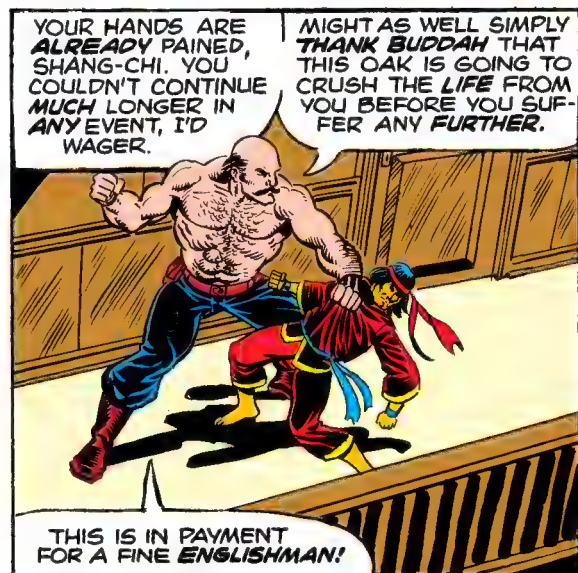
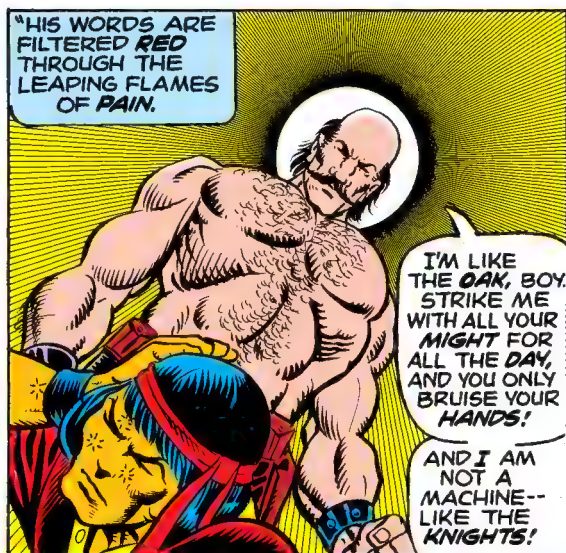
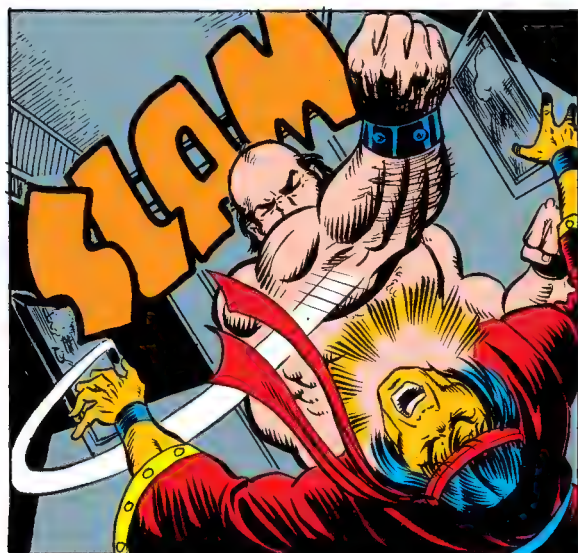
--AND I'VE NEVER COME OUT **SECOND BEST** ON EITHER COUNT!

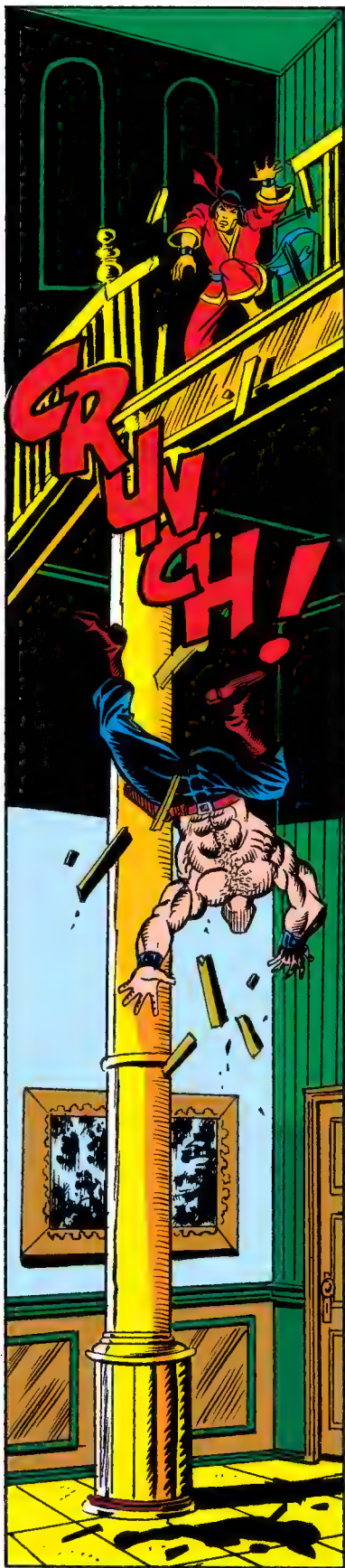


NOW, **CHINAMAN--** PREPARE FOR **DEATH!**



"HE **TALKS** TOO MUCH."





"LIKE MIDNIGHT,
ANOTHER
OPPONENT HAS
BEEN DELIVERED
TO THE GRIP OF
GRAVITY--

"BUT ONLY I SEEM TO COM-
PREHEND THIS--AND THAT
MUST NOT BE!



"I MUST
FIND SIR
DENIS!
I MUST
EXPLAIN!



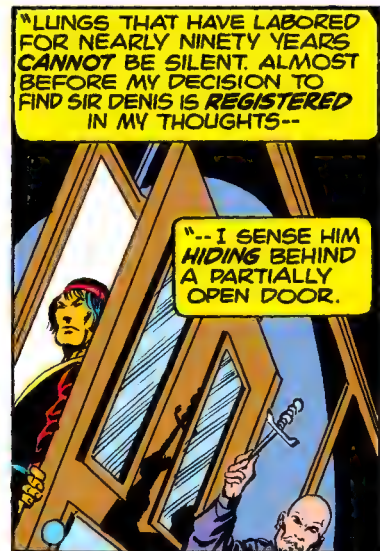
"WITHOUT QUESTION, HE IS
ARMED. BUT, CONFINED TO
A WHEELCHAIR, HE IS ALSO
STATIONARY.

"PROJECTING
HIS PROBABLE
POSITION
BEHIND
THE DOOR--



"--YET THIS ONE, AS I
HOPED, HAS SURVIVED! HE
IS, AS HE BOASTED, MUCH
LIKE A STURDY OAK!"

"I HAVE NO
DESIRE TO HURT
A LIVING BEING
NOW.

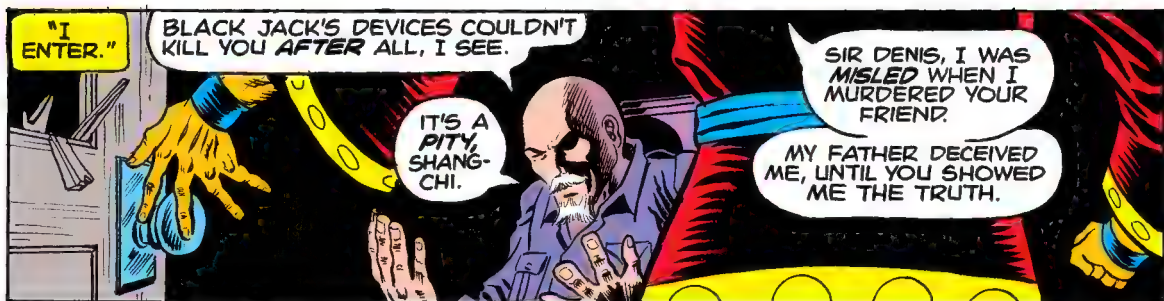


"LUNGS THAT HAVE LABORED
FOR NEARLY NINETY YEARS
CANNOT BE SILENT. ALMOST
BEFORE MY DECISION TO
FIND SIR DENIS IS REGISTERED
IN MY THOUGHTS--

"--I SENSE HIM
HIDING BEHIND
A PARTIALLY
OPEN DOOR.



"--I
STRIKE!



"I ENTER."

BLACK JACK'S DEVICES COULDN'T KILL YOU AFTER ALL, I SEE.

IT'S A PITY, SHANG-CHI.

SIR DENIS, I WAS MISLED WHEN I MURDERED YOUR FRIEND.

MY FATHER DECEIVED ME, UNTIL YOU SHOWED ME THE TRUTH.



I KNOW! I KNOW! YOU BELIEVED YOU WERE MERELY HARVESTING RICE WHEN YOU BROKE PETRIE'S NECK!

YOU LYING DEVIL! IF I COULD STAND---



YOU CAN.



WHAT? WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID?

I THOUGHT YOU AT LEAST HAD SOME CODE OF HONOR-- BUT NO! NO, YOU MOCK ME IN ADDITION TO EVERYTHING ELSE!

COME AHEAD! TAKE MY LIFE! YOU HAVE ME AT YOUR MERCY!



I WOULD RATHER SEE YOU STAND.



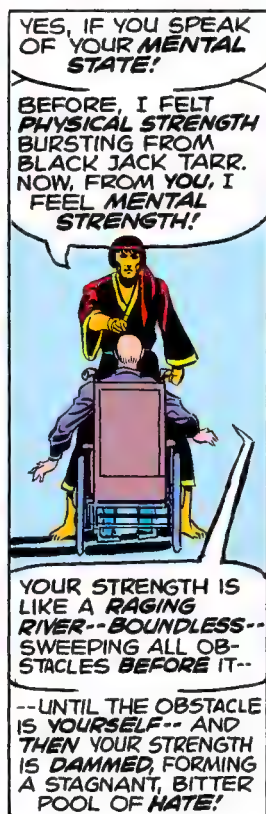
ARE YOU INSANE? IS THAT THE EXPLANATION FOR YOUR CRIMES?

LOOK! LOOK WHAT YOUR FATHER HAD DONE TO ME!



THE FINEST SURGEONS AND NEUROLOGISTS HAVE EXAMINED THESE LEGS!

I AM A CRIPPLE!



YES, IF YOU SPEAK OF YOUR MENTAL STATE!

BEFORE, I FELT PHYSICAL STRENGTH BURSTING FROM BLACK JACK TARR. NOW, FROM YOU, I FEEL MENTAL STRENGTH!

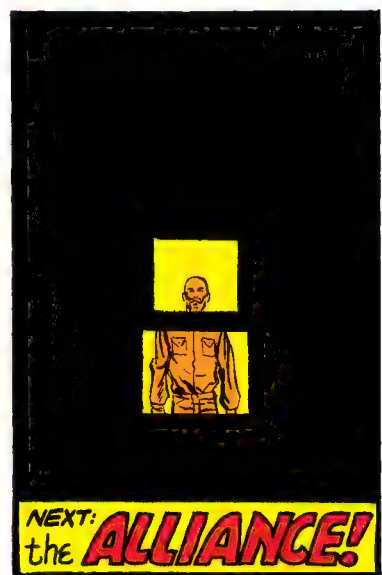
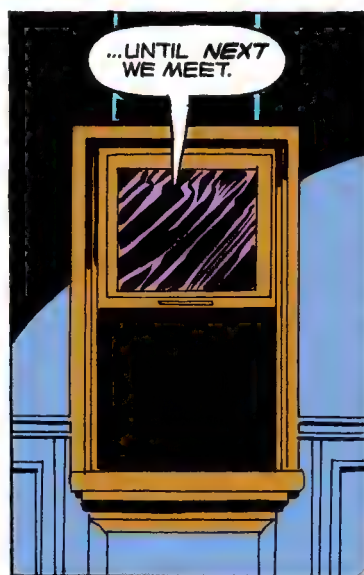
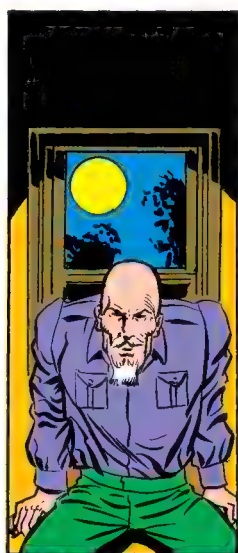
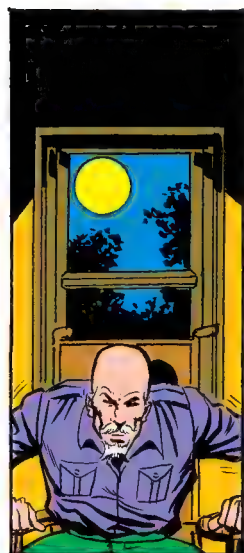
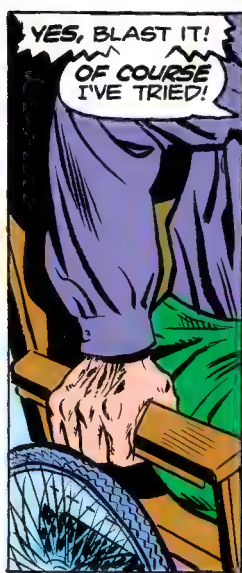
YOUR STRENGTH IS LIKE A RAGING RIVER-- BOUNDLESS-- SWEEPING ALL OBSTACLES BEFORE IT--

--UNTIL THE OBSTACLE IS YOURSELF-- AND THEN YOUR STRENGTH IS DAMMED, FORMING A STAGNANT, BITTER POOL OF HATE!



FORGET THAT HATE! FORGET YOUR LEGS! FORGET YOURSELF!

LET YOUR STRENGTH BE ALL! LET YOUR STRENGTH WASH OVER YOU! LET IT CLEANSE YOU-- LIFT YOU-- CARRY YOU!



MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



25¢

18
JUNE
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU



FATHER VS. SON!
FU MANCHU
VS. **SHANG-CHI**

--AND TO THE VANQUISHED,
DEATH!



**MARTIAL
ARTS**
ACTION
FROM MIGHTY
MARVEL

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

ATTACK!



**STEVE
ENGLEHART**
Author

**PAUL
GULACY**
Artist

FEATURING
CHARACTERS
CREATED BY
**SAX
ROHMER**

AL MILGROM *Inking*
ORZECZOWSKI, *Lettering* · **P. GOLDBERG**, *Coloring*

**ROY
THOMAS**
Editor



"THE DACOIT RECOVERS HIS BALANCE, HIS SILKEN NOOSE AGAIN POISED FOR SWIFT, SILENT STRANGULATION.

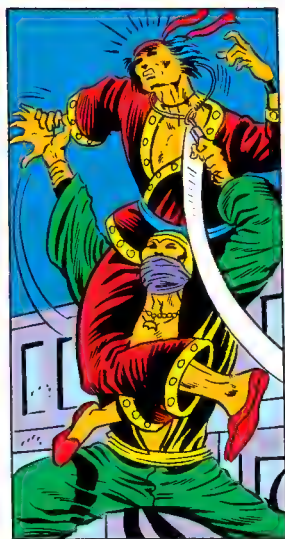
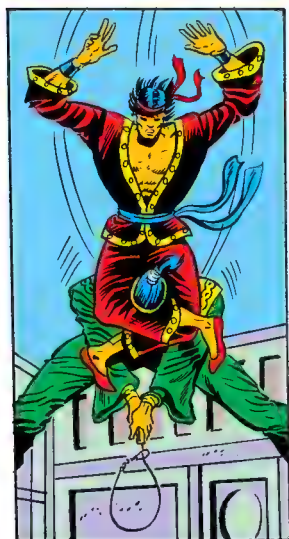
"TO ATTACK THE LAIR OF FU MANCHU, ONE MUST PAY A PRICE, IT SEEMS--

"--AND EVEN IF ONE IS THE SON OF FU MANCHU, AND A MASTER OF KUNG FU--



"--THE PRICE CAN BE ONE'S DEATH.

"BUT I COMMITTED MYSELF TO ANY AND ALL COSTS THE MOMENT I TURNED AGAINST MY FATHER. I NEED NOT WEIGH THIS ONE FURTHER.

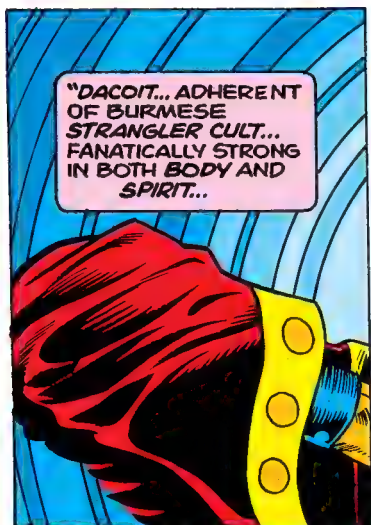


"THE DACOIT FLICKS HIS WRIST, BUT I FLICK MY ARMS, THRUSTING MY FINGERS BETWEEN THROAT AND NOOSE AS THE LINE RIPS TAUT!

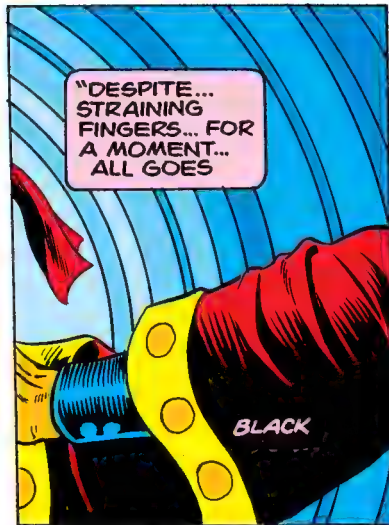


YOUR SPEED IS OF THE WIND, SHANG-CHI! YET FU MANCHU FORESAW YOUR INEVITABLE ATTEMPT TO DESTROY HIM!

I HAVE WAITED AT THIS ENTRANCE FOR FORTY-SIX DAYS TO KILL YOU!



"DACOIT... ADHERENT OF BURMESE STRANGLER CULT... FANATICALLY STRONG IN BOTH BODY AND SPIRIT...

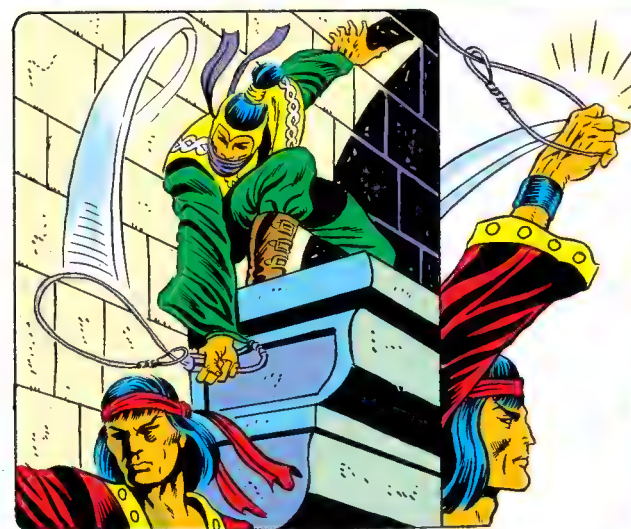
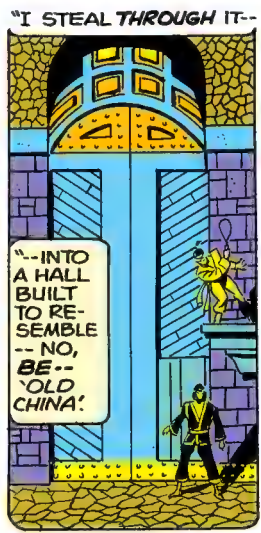
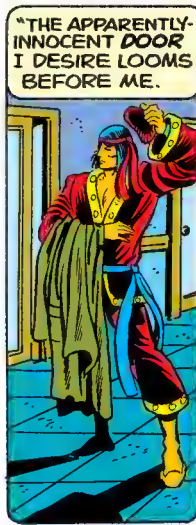


"DESPITE... STRAINING FINGERS... FOR A MOMENT... ALL GOES

BLACK

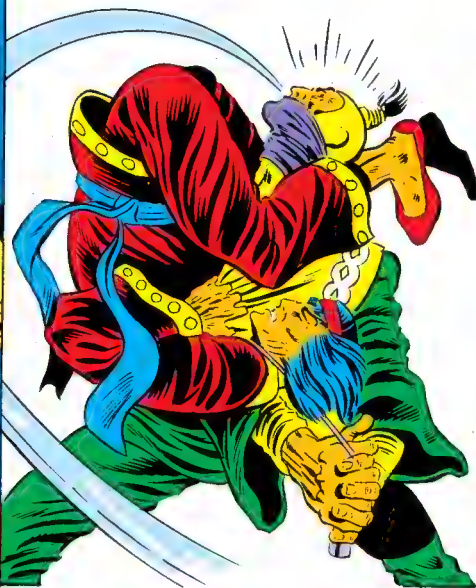


"YES! I HAVE CAMOUFLAGED MYSELF TO MINGLE WITH THE UNKNOWN MEN WHO LABOR IN LEGITIMATE JOBS HERE."



"SUDDENLY... PAIN RETURNS! I LOST... CONSCIOUSNESS... FOR AN INSTANT-- MY BRAIN FELL INTO MEMORY-- BUT NOW I AM IN THE PRESENT AND I MUST SWIFTLY

STRIKE!

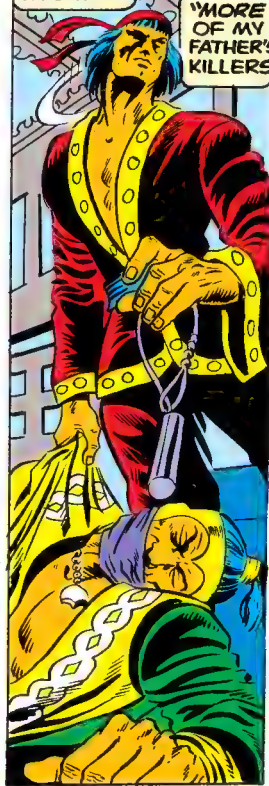


"DOGGEDLY, THE MAN RISES-- BUT I AM RECOVERED."

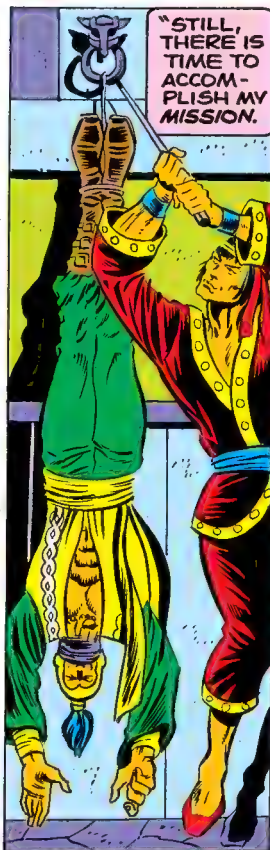


"RUNNING FEET-- RUNNING THIS WAY!"

"MORE OF MY FATHER'S KILLERS."



"STILL, THERE IS TIME TO ACCOMPLISH MY MISSION."



"FU MANCHU UNDERESTIMATES ME. I DO INDEED PLAN TO DESTROY HIS EMPIRE OF EVIL... BUT I UNDERSTAND THE FOOLISHNESS OF FRONTAL ASSAULT."

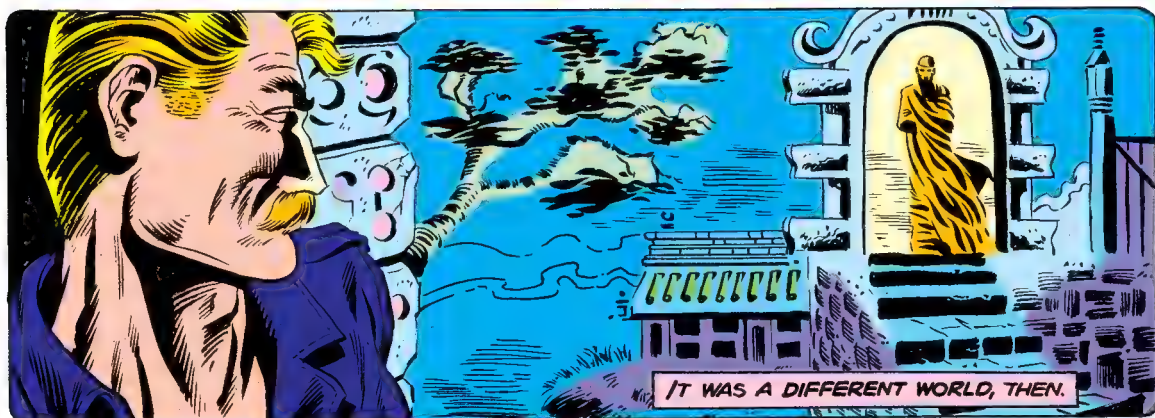
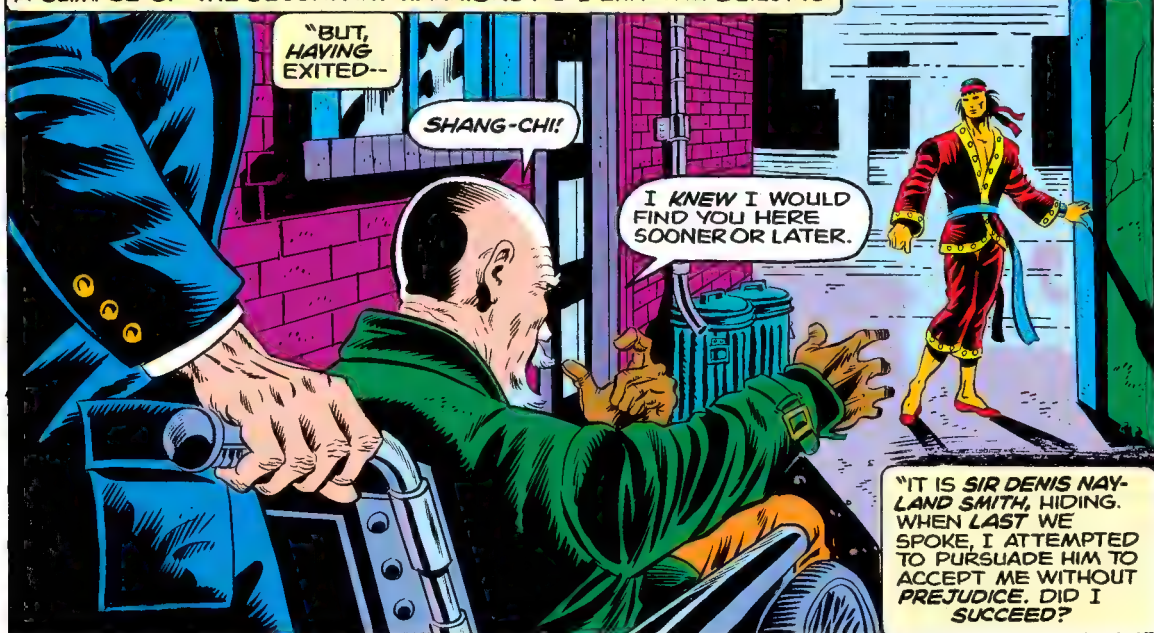


FIRST MOVE!

Shang-Chi

"A WAR OF ATTRITION, ATTACKING AND VANISHING, WILL SERVE ME MORE FULLY. MAY HE CONTINUE TO FIND ME UNPREDICTABLE!"

"ONCE AMONG THE OFFICE WORKERS AGAIN, I AM IMMUNE FROM REPRISALS. I CATCH NOT EVEN A GLIMPSE OF THE SECONDARY WARRIORS AS I EXIT THE BUILDING.



I WAS 28, THEN-- AND LIKE EVERY OCCIDENTAL, I FEARED THE UNKNOWN EAST AND ITS "YELLOW PERIL." WHEN FU MANCHU SWEEPED OUT OF CHINA, I KNEW I HAD TO STOP HIM.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, I STILL DO. I HAVE LEARNED OF THE MAN BEHIND THE SYMBOL, BUT I STILL CONSIDER HIM THE MOST EVIL MAN ALIVE!

... AND I WOULD HATE DYING WITH MY WORK UNFINISHED.



SIR DENIS! YOU SHOULDN'T OPEN YOURSELF TO A... A CHINAMAN! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET YOU TALK ME INTO BRINGING YOU HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!



I'M THE ONLY WEAPON YOU NEED AGAINST FU MANCHU!

BLACK JACK... OLD MAN...

SHANG-CHI MADE ME SEE MYSELF AS I HAD BECOME SINCE PETRIE'S DEATH: A BITTER CRIPPLE, NO GOOD TO HIMSELF OR THE WORLD.

FOR THAT, HE DESERVES MY HELP FOR MY EXPERIENCE, I DESERVE HIS.



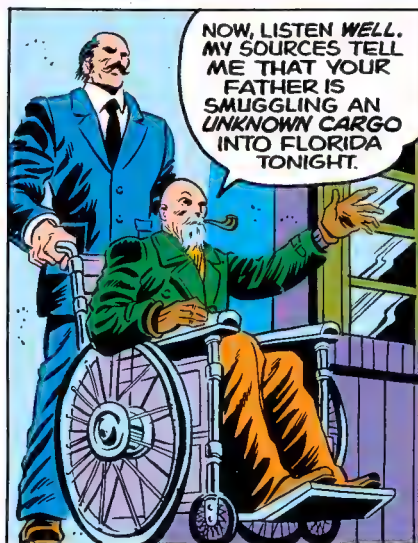
CLEARLY SPOKEN, SIR DENIS-- AND TRULY.

I CAN USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MY FATHER, AND I SHALL DO WHAT I CAN TO AID YOU. YOU HAVE MY WORD.

BUT WE SPEAK ONLY OF AID. I COULD NOT BE FU MANCHU'S WEAPON. I SHALL NOT BE YOURS.



AGREED. YOU HAVE MY WORD.



NOW, LISTEN WELL. MY SOURCES TELL ME THAT YOUR FATHER IS SMUGGLING AN UNKNOWN CARGO INTO FLORIDA TONIGHT.



IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, I'LL HAVE YOU FLOWN THERE.



I SHALL RELY UPON MYSELF, THANK YOU.



"DIRECTIONS TO THE SMUGGLERS ARE CONCISE.

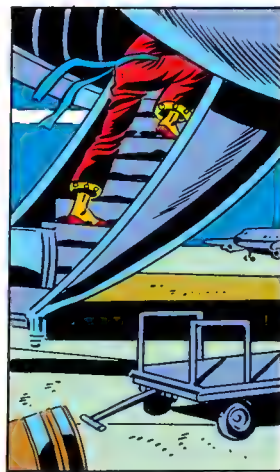
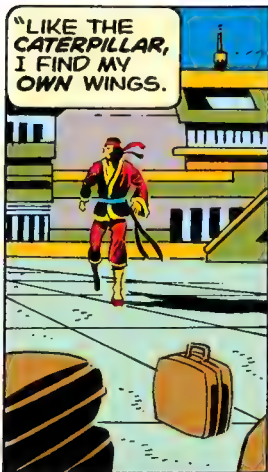
"SIR DENIS DOES NOT BABBLE.

"YET BEHIND SIR DENIS' RESERVE, I SENSE A DISTRUST OF ME. I ALLOWED HIM TO USE HIS LEGS, WHEN HIS SCIENCE ASSURED HIM HE COULD NOT -- AND HE CREDITS ME WITH THE POWER INSTEAD OF HIMSELF.

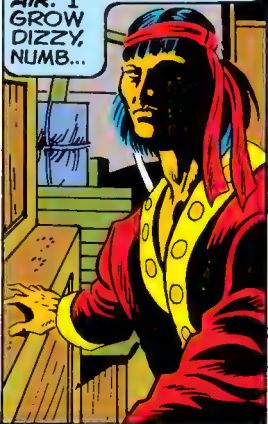
"HE FEELS HIMSELF IN MY DEBT, AND HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT I MAY ASK OF HIM IN RETURN.

"THUS, I DID NOT ASK FOR TRANSPORTATION.

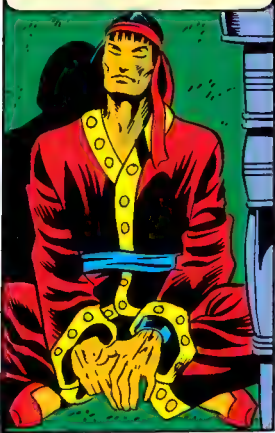
"LIKE THE CATERPILLAR, I FIND MY OWN WINGS.



"THE RISING OF THE AIRCRAFT IS ACCOMPANIED BY A THINNING AND COOLING OF THE AIR. I GROW DIZZY, NUMB...



"...SO I SETTLE AND SLOW MYSELF, TRANSCENDING THE BODY... AND LOOSENING...THE...



"...MIND.



"THE REMAINDER OF MY JOURNEY IS SIMILARLY UNEVENTFUL. BY THE RISING OF A SHIMMERING, EGG-YOLK MOON, I STAND AWASH WITH DELICATELY- WARMED SEA-BREEZES... NOW AWAITING, PERHAPS, MY DEATH.

"I DID NOT EXPECT TO SEE MY FATHER IN NEW YORK... BUT I DO HERE IN THIS COVE.



"I WAIT.

"THE REGION NAMED 'FLORIDA' IS BEAUTIFUL.



"NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH A TREE.

"AND WHAT IS THIS?

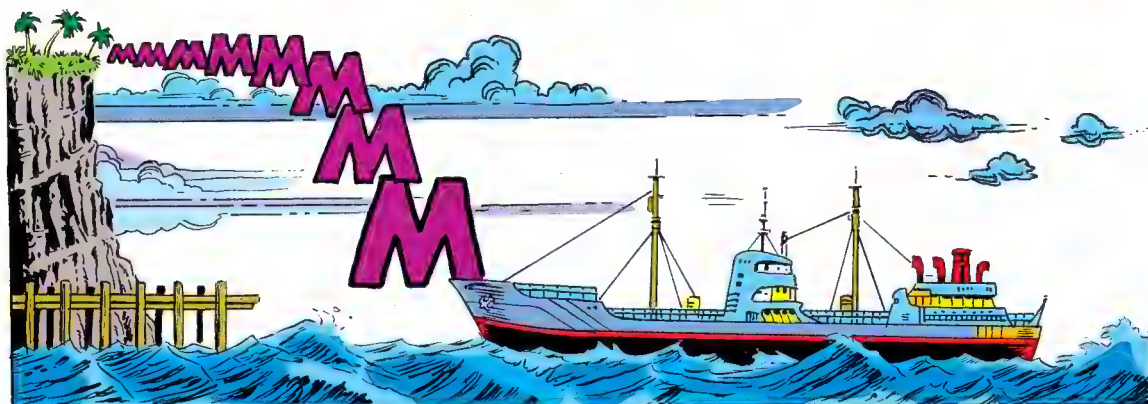


"OHO! A LIZARD!

"A STRONG BEAST-- YEARNING LIKE ALL CREATURES TO BE FREE.



FEAR NOT, LIZARD. I WISH ONLY TO LEARN OF YOU.



"FLEE, LITTLE LIZARD! FLEE AND FORGET THE STRANGE CREATURE WHO SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND A WORLD HE KNOWS SO LITTLE OF.

"BE THANKFUL THAT YOUR FATHER DID NOT FILL YOUR HEAD WITH LIES FROM THE DAY YOU CRAWLED FROM YOUR EGG--

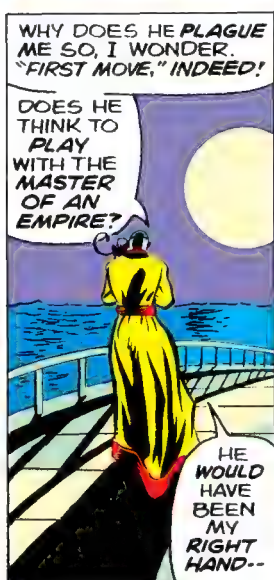
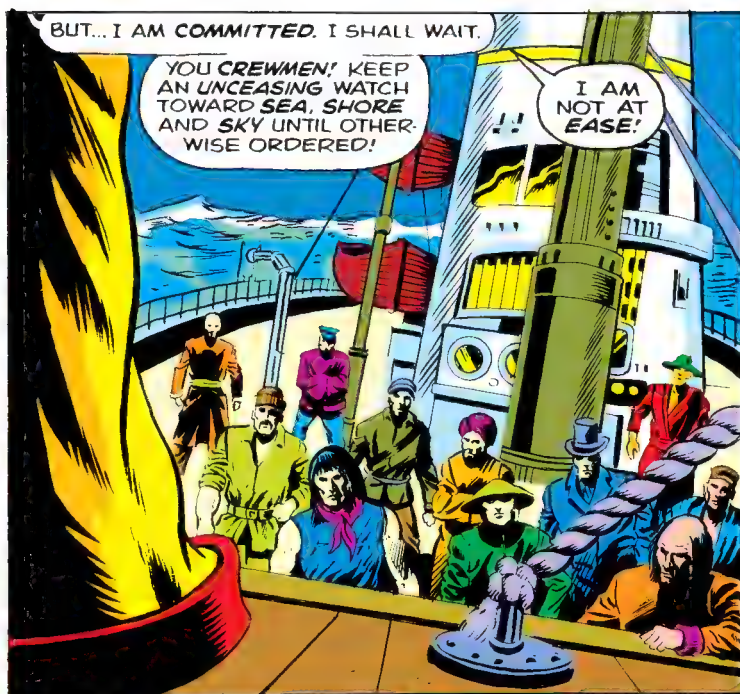
"--SO THAT EVERYTHING YOU TAKE FOR GRANTED IN LIFE-- EVERYTHING YOU RELY UPON IN SEEING REALITY-- EVERYTHING YOU THINK TRUE--

"--IS SUSPECT!

"FLEE FROM THE STRUGGLES THAT ENSNARE SHANG-CHI--

"--AND FU MANCHU.





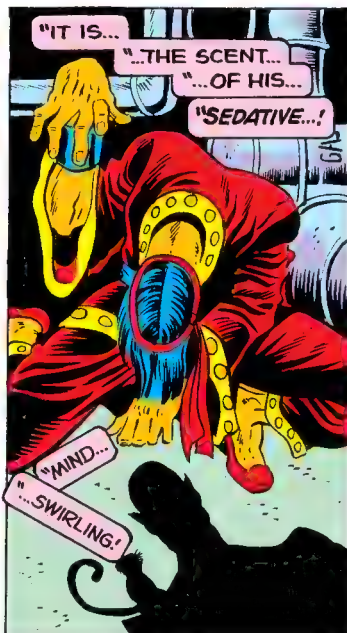
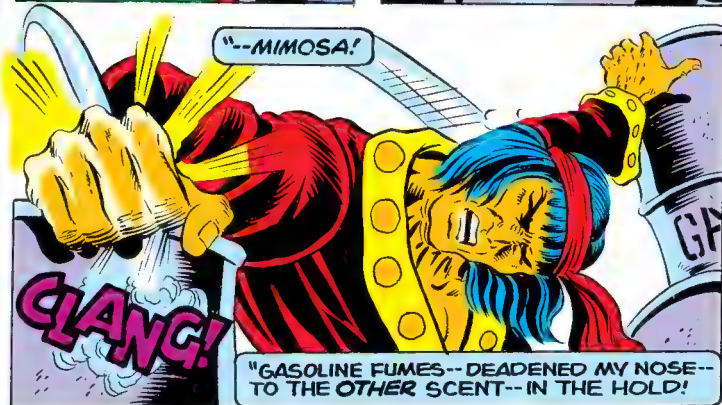
"I GLIDE PAST MY FATHER AND HIS CREW. EVERY WORD HE SPOKE IS FRESH AND CLEAR IN MY MIND, SO I SWIFTLY MAKE MY WAY TO THE CARGO HOLD.

"THE HATCH IS WELL-TENDED. IT OPENS AS SILENTLY AS THE SALT WATER EVAPORATING FROM MY GARMENTS IN THE WARM FLORIDA AIR.

"I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. MY FIRST THOUGHTS ARE OF NATURAL GAS-- BUT THE UNMISTAKABLE ODOR OF GASOLINE IMMEDIATELY ENDS THEM.

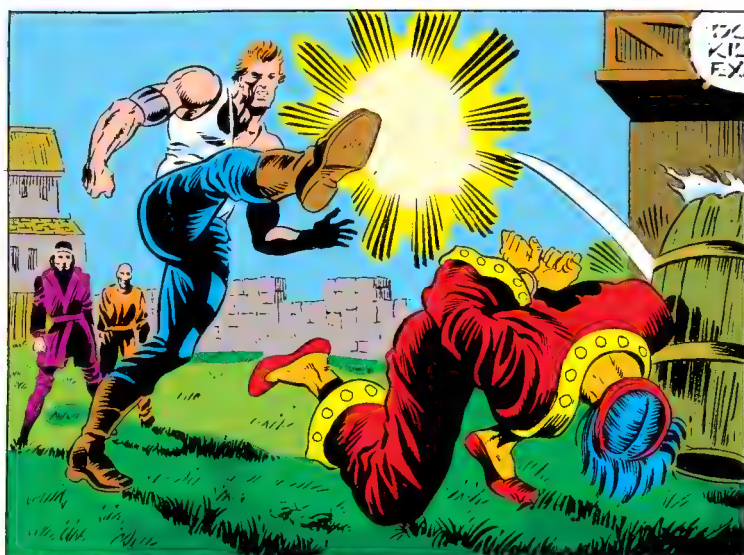
"YES, THIS BARREL CONTAINS GASOLINE. YET WHY SMUGGLE IN SUCH A SUBSTANCE--

"HOLD! NOW I SMELL--



"THE CARGO IS... GAS!"





"DO YOU WANT I SHOULD
KILL HIM NOW, O
EXALTED ONE?"

"WORDS
...NO,
WORDS...
ARE REBORN
...TO MY...
EARS....

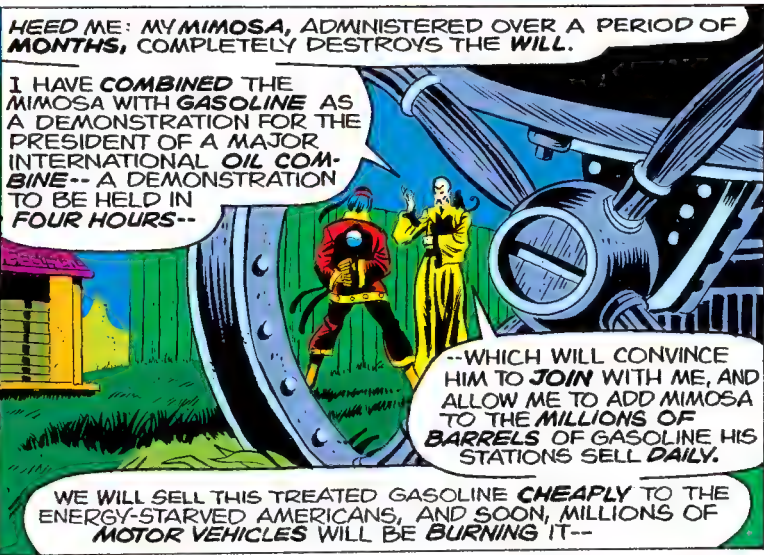
"MY MIND CLEARS.

"NO, RASKOV.
HE AWAKENS.



"SHANG-CHI... ONCE MY
SON... YOUR SECOND
MOVE IN YOUR
CONTEMPTIBLE WAR
HAS BROUGHT YOU
TO YOUR DEATH!"

"I DO NOT
GRIEVE.



"HEED ME: MY MIMOSA, ADMINISTERED OVER A PERIOD OF
MONTHS, COMPLETELY DESTROYS THE WILL.

"I HAVE COMBINED THE
MIMOSA WITH GASOLINE AS
A DEMONSTRATION FOR THE
PRESIDENT OF A MAJOR
INTERNATIONAL OIL COM-
BINE-- A DEMONSTRATION
TO BE HELD IN
FOUR HOURS--

--WHICH WILL CONVINCE
HIM TO JOIN WITH ME, AND
ALLOW ME TO ADD MIMOSA
TO THE MILLIONS OF
BARRELS OF GASOLINE HIS
STATIONS SELL DAILY.

"WE WILL SELL THIS TREATED GASOLINE CHEAPLY TO THE
ENERGY-STARVED AMERICANS, AND SOON, MILLIONS OF
MOTOR VEHICLES WILL BE BURNING IT--



-- SPEWING THE MIMOSA INTO THE
AIR ACROSS AMERICA, TO HANG
UNSUSPECTED AS PART OF
THEIR SMOG.

"IN THREE MONTHS,
THE CONCENTRATION
WILL BE SUCH THAT
ALL OF AMERICA
WILL BE MINE TO
COMMAND!"

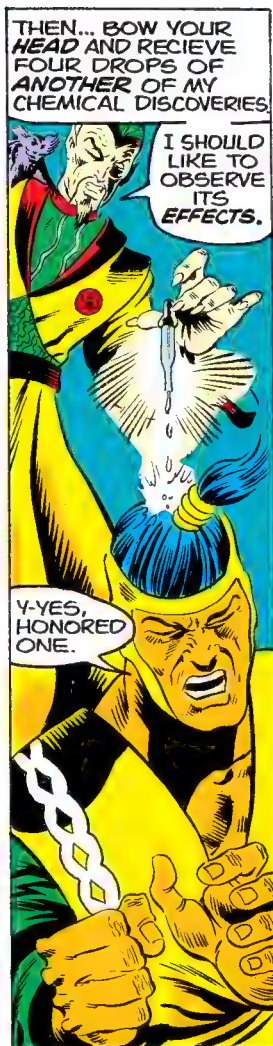
"WHAT--OF THE PRESIDENT-- OF THE COMBINE?"

"DEAD, OF
COURSE! HIS
USEFULNESS
WILL HAVE
ENDED--

--LIKE THAT OF THIS
CONVERSATION,
SHANG-CHI.

"LOOK BEHIND YOU.





"THE SILENTLY SCREAMING, MINDLESS
MAN HUMS TOWARD ME, STRIKING AT
THE ONLY HUMAN HE CAN REACH!"

"I AM BUT
A TORTOISE
TO HIM--"

"-- BUT TO
MYSELF,
I AM A
TORTOISE
WITH
KNOWLEDGE."



"THE PITIABLE HULK IS TWITCHING UNCONTROL-
LABLY NOW, HIS MOVE-
MENTS *ERRATIC* STILL,
MY BLOWS CANNOT
STUN A NERVOUS SYS-
TEM IN THE THROES
OF SELF-DESTRUCTION!"



"PERHAPS THIS IS
A MAN WHO WILL
OVERCOME ME."

POK!



"I HAVE MADE
NO PROGRESS
AGAINST HIM."

DEFEATED ME BEFORE,
SHANG-CHI! BROUGHT ME
MASTER'S DISPLEASURE
FOR FIRST TIME EVER
AND BROUGHT ME HOR-
RIBLE PUNISHMENT AND
ALL BECAUSE YOU
DEFEATED ME FOR
FIRST TIME EVER--

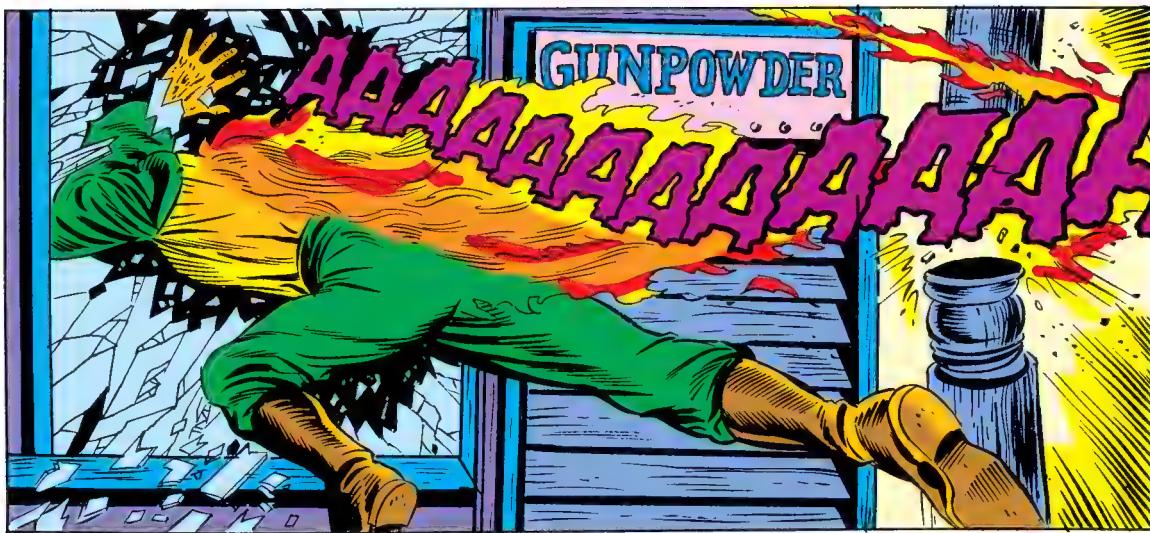


--BUT WHAT DOES
THAT MATTER
AGAINST THE
PAIN?!!



I CANNOT
ABIDE
THE PAIN!

LET ME DIE **NOW!**



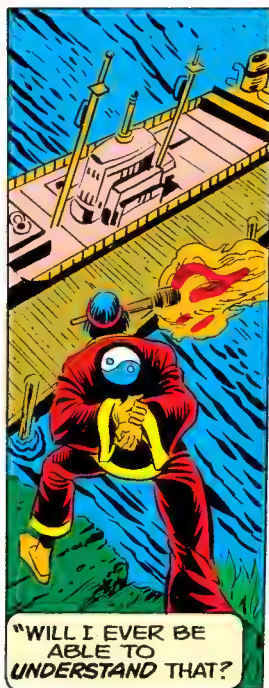
GUNPOWDER

AAAAA



"THE MAN KILLED HIMSELF, BECAUSE DEATH WAS PREFERABLE TO LIFE FOR HIM!"

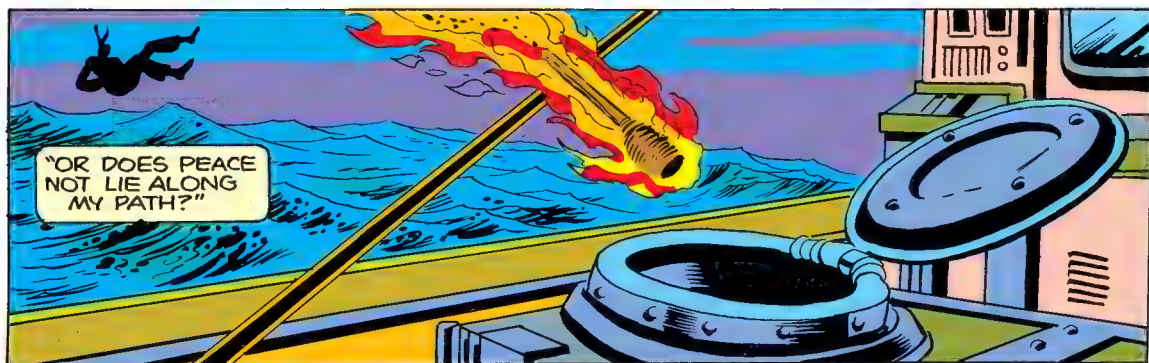
"AND MY FATHER MADE HIS LIFE SO UNBEARABLE!"



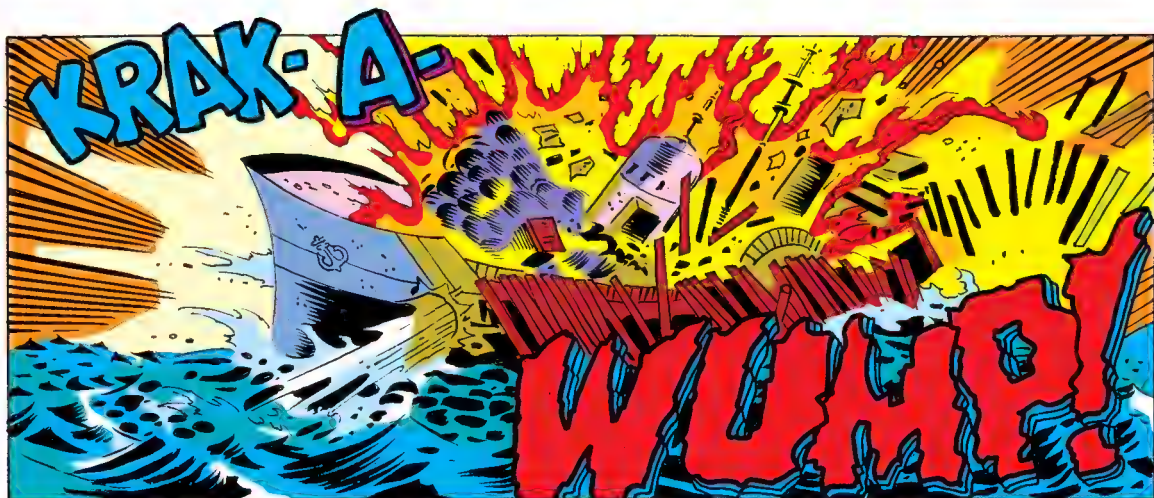
"WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT?"



"WILL I EVER AGAIN KNOW PEACE?"



"OR DOES PEACE NOT LIE ALONG MY PATH?"



GONE! BOTH MY SCHEMES AND MY SON! BUT MY SON WILL ESCAPE A WATERY TOMB!

HE IS TOO WELL-TRAINED TO DIE FROM A FALL--

--AND SO, THE AUTHORITIES WILL BE ALERTED TO MY SCHEME!

YES, O' CELESTIAL ONE... UNLESS YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF DEATH REACH SHANG-CHI BEFORE HE REACHES THE AUTHORITIES!

AND WE SHALL! IT IS SWORN!

IT IS SWORN!

PURSUIT! FEATURING THE **TWO** MOST INCREDIBLE **GUEST STARS** OF THE YEAR!!!

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



25¢
©

19
AUG
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU



MARTIAL ARTS
VS.
MAN-THING
--AND ONE MUST FALL!



Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

RETREAT

GUESTING...
THE
MACABRE
**MAN-
THING**

by

STEVE ENGLEHART
Author,

PAUL GULACY
Artist

AL MILGROM, Inks
ORZECZOWSKI, Letters
STAN G., Colors
ROY THOMAS, Editor



FEATURING CHARACTERS
CREATED BY SAX ROHMER

"WHAT MANNER OF MONSTER IS THIS, WHICH MOVES SO SUDDENLY IN MY PATH?"



"AS THE SON OF FU MANCHU, I HAVE BEEN WITNESS TO MUCH--"



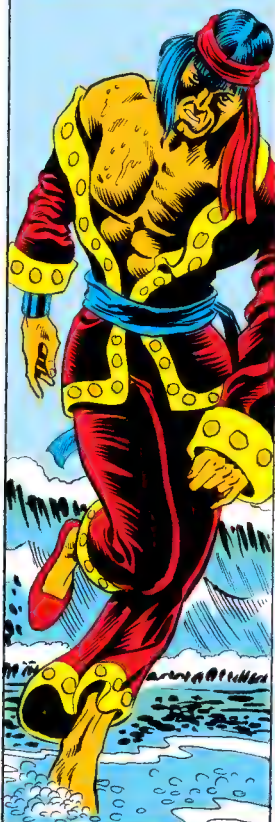
"--BUT NEVER ANYTHING THE LIKE OF THIS."



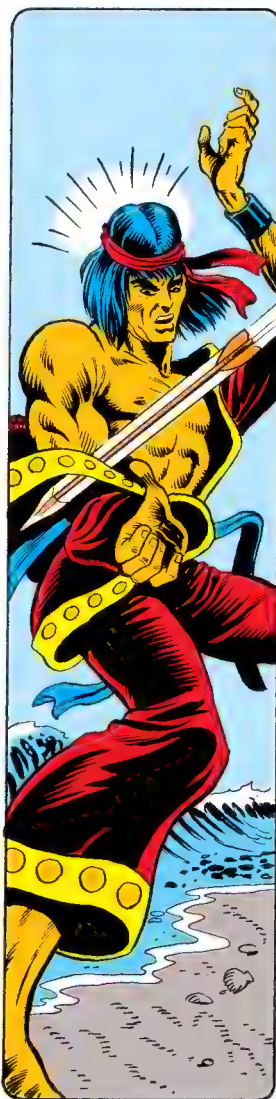
"WHAT CAN BE THIS CREATURE'S ROLE--"



"-- IN THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WHICH HAS NOW OCCUPIED TWELVE HOURS OF MY LIFE."



"... WHICH *BEGAN*, WITH PERFECT SYMMETRY BENEATH THE FLORIDA SUN."



"I HAD SWUM A GREAT DISTANCE ALONG THE FLORIDA COAST, TO ESCAPE THE VENGEANCE OF FU MANCHU--"



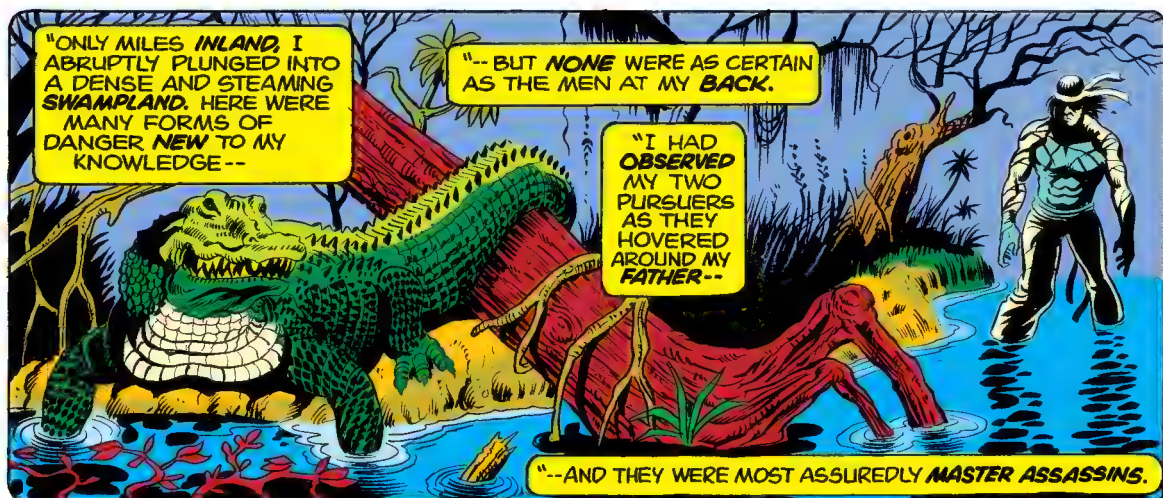
"-- BUT I HAD NOT SWUM FAR ENOUGH."



"I WAS WEARY, AND THEY WERE ARMED."



"I RAN."



"ONLY MILES INLAND, I ABRUPTLY PLUNGED INTO A DENSE AND STEAMING SWAMPLAND. HERE WERE MANY FORMS OF DANGER NEW TO MY KNOWLEDGE--

"-- BUT NONE WERE AS CERTAIN AS THE MEN AT MY BACK.

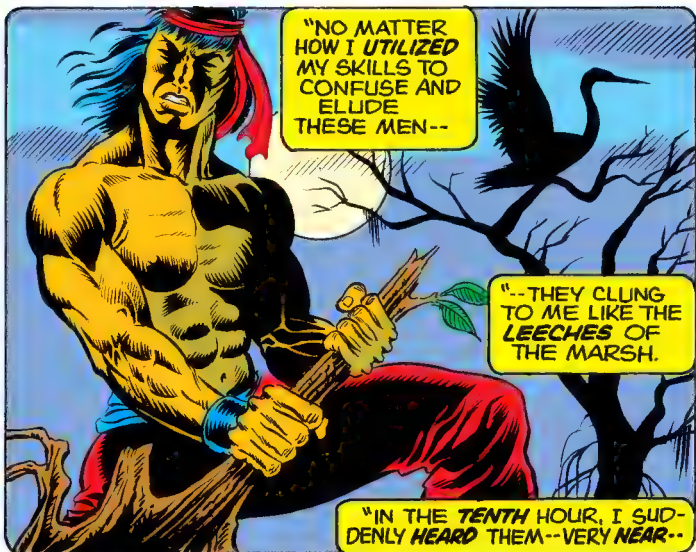
"I HAD OBSERVED MY TWO PURSUERS AS THEY HOVERED AROUND MY FATHER--

"--AND THEY WERE MOST ASSUREDLY MASTER ASSASSINS.



HIS SLIPPER! PERHAPS SHANG-CHI HAS SUCCEumbed TO THESE "EVERGLADES."

IMPOSSIBLE, JEKIN. IMPOSSIBLE.



"NO MATTER HOW I UTILIZED MY SKILLS TO CONFUSE AND ELUDE THESE MEN--

"--THEY CLUNG TO ME LIKE THE LEECHES OF THE MARSH.

"IN THE TENTH HOUR, I SUDDENLY HEARD THEM--VERY NEAR--

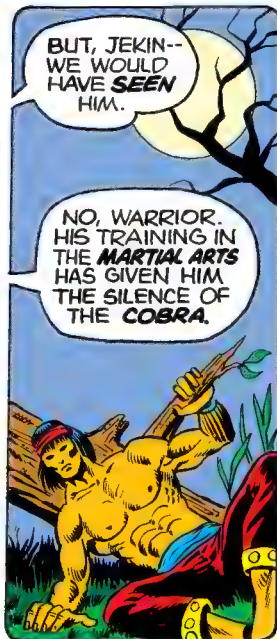


"--SO I SWIFTLY AND SUBTLY BECAME ONE WITH MY SURROUNDINGS.

DO YOU SEE HIM, JEKIN?



NO, DAHAR! I BELIEVE HE TURNED UPON HIS TRACK.

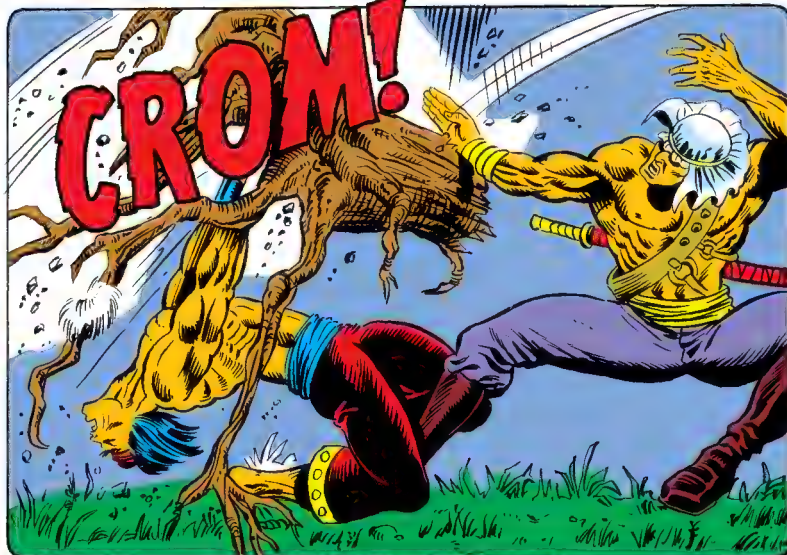
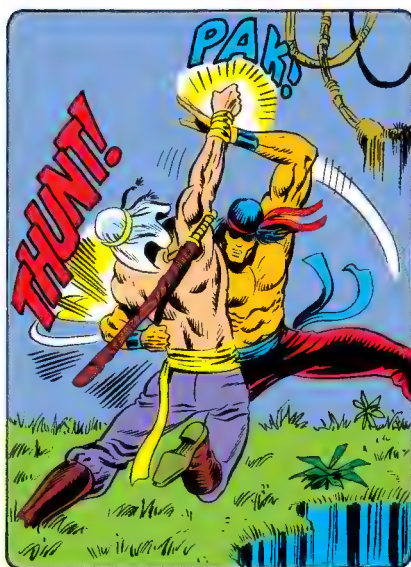
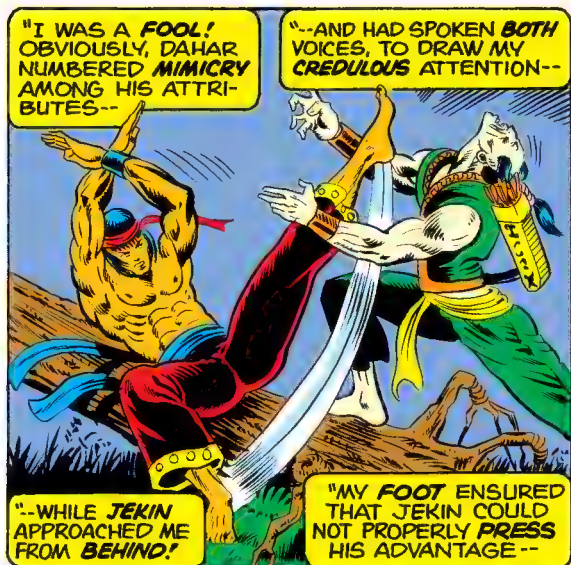


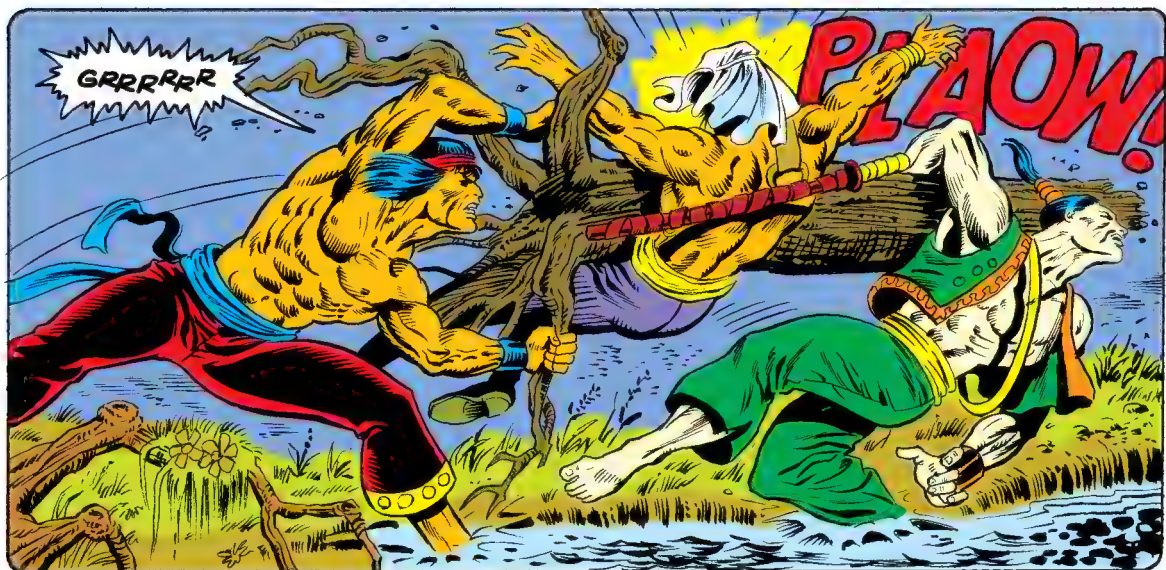
BUT, JEKIN-- WE WOULD HAVE SEEN HIM.

NO, WARRIOR. HIS TRAINING IN THE MARTIAL ARTS HAS GIVEN HIM THE SILENCE OF THE COBRA.



HERE, DAHAR! I HAVE HIM!





"SUDDENLY,
EVERYTHING
UNDULATES!"



"I STRIKE THE MONSTER!"



"THE MONSTER! THE SNAKE TRANSFORMED ITSELF INTO THE MONSTER!"



"THAT CANNOT BE!"

"YET I AM HELD BY THE MUCUS-BROWN SLIME OF THE THING!"



"I KNOW I AM! I KNOW I FEEL THIS!"

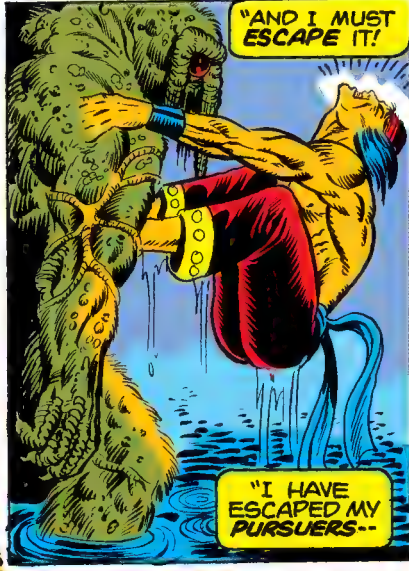
"THEN MY MIND HAS STRAYED--"

"--FIRST INTO MEMORY, THEN INTO DELUSION."



"ONLY THIS MONSTER--"

"--IS REAL."



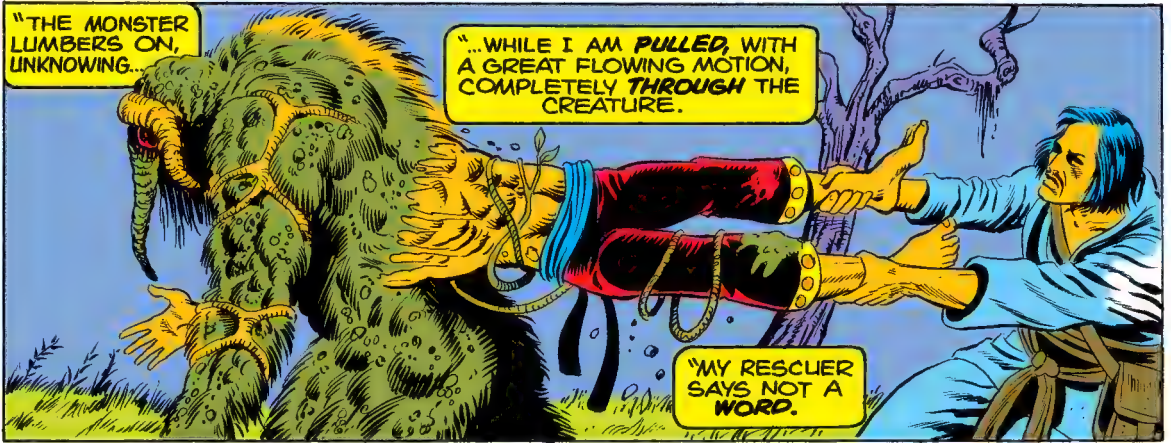
"AND I MUST ESCAPE IT!"

"I HAVE ESCAPED MY PURSUERS--"

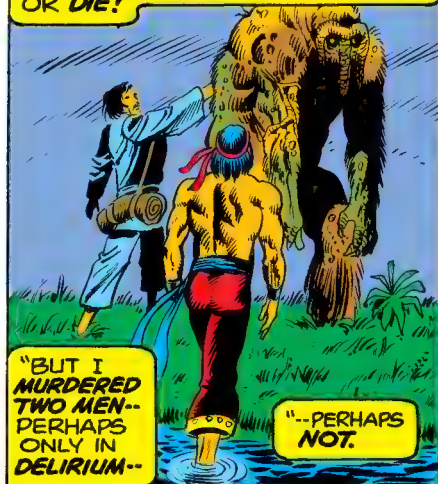


"--BUT I HAVE NOT ESCAPED MY OTHER HINDRANCE: THE MIMOSA DRUG TO WHICH I SUCCUMBED WHILE IN CONTENTION WITH MY FATHER. MY FLIGHT HAS PRECLUDED THE RESTORATION PERIOD I HAVE NEEDED--"

"--AND I-- CANNOT... MAINTAIN--"



"I-- HAVE NEVER RATIONALLY WANTED ANYTHING TO BECOME INJURED-- OR DIE!"



"BUT I MURDERED TWO MEN-- PERHAPS ONLY IN DELIRIUM--"

"--PERHAPS NOT."

I AM CALLED **LU SUN**.

I SAW YOU WERE IN NO DANGER AFTER BEING FREED, SO I LOOKED TO THE MORE **UNUSUAL** BEING.



I AM CALLED **SHANG-CHI**. I AM IN NEED OF **REST**, TO DRIVE A **POISON** FROM MY BODY.

PERHAPS I MAY AID YOU **FURTHER**.

I HAVE **MIS-JUDGED** YOU, BUT I AM **GRATEFUL** FOR YOUR AID.



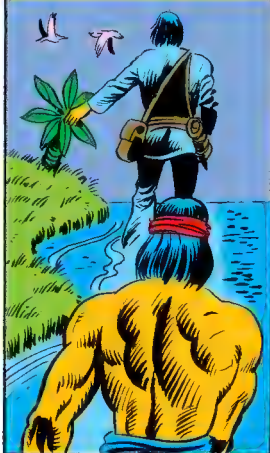
"HE TURNS EASILY, AND TREADS **UNHESITATINGLY** AWAY. I MUST FOLLOW."

"MY MIND IS MORE **COHERENT** NOW. THE **RED-INDIGO** WAVE OF **DELIRIUM** IS **ROLLING BACK**, ITS **CONFUSION**, **FORTUNATELY**, ONLY **MOMENTARY**."

"I CAME UPON THE CREATURE AFTER MY HOURS OF **FLIGHT**, **DEBILITATED** BY THE **DRUG**, AND PERCEIVED IT A **MONSTER**."



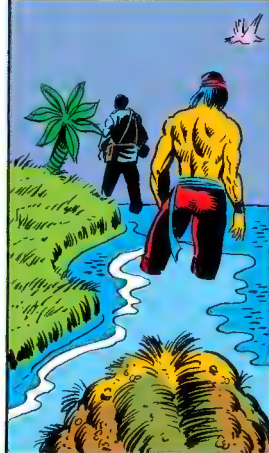
"AS IT REACHED FOR ME, MY ILLNESS **DIVERTED** MY THOUGHTS--"



"-- FOR A **FEW SECONDS** AT MOST. **NEVERTHELESS**, IT IS AN **UNSETTLING** EXPERIENCE."



"AH -- I HEAR THE CREATURE BEGIN TO **SPLASH** ALONG **BEHIND** US."



"I DID NOT **WISH** TO **ATTACK** IT. **PERHAPS**, **SOMEHOW**, IT **KNOWS**."



"AFTER A LENGTH OF TIME, WE REACH A GLADE.



REST.

UPON THIS SMALL ISLAND, YOU MAY SIT--

--AND HIDE FROM THE TWO MEN WHO YET HUNT YOU.

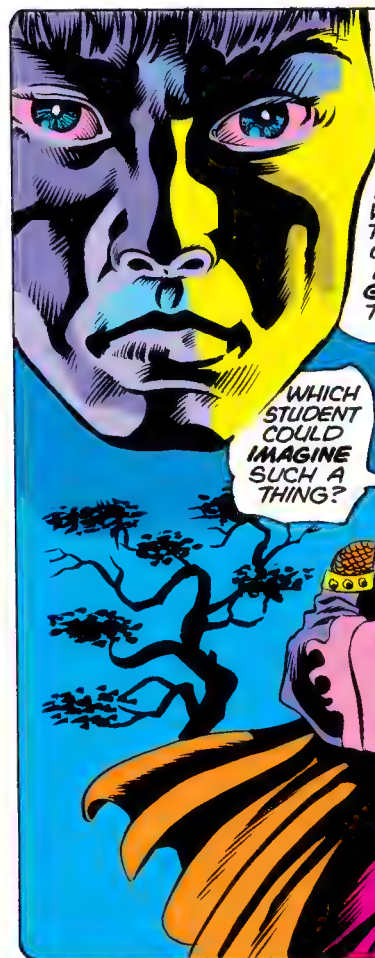


I WATCHED FROM A DISTANCE AS THEY CLIMBED FROM THE BOG INTO WHICH YOU HURLED THEM. THEIR INJURIES WERE SLIGHT.

LU SUN... HOW IS IT THAT A MAN-- WITH MANY YEARS OF LIVING-- MAY DESIRE THE DEATH OF HIS SON?



HOW COULD HE LIE TO AN INNOCENT AND CALL IT TRUTH?



HONORABLE FATHER, ONE OF THE OTHER STUDENTS HAS SAID TO ME THAT YOU WORK NOT TO BENEFIT THE WORLD... BUT TO RULE IT.

A VICIOUS SLANDER, SHANG-CHI. YOU MAY BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THIS FANCY CONTAINS NOT A GRAIN OF TRUTH.

WHICH STUDENT COULD IMAGINE SUCH A THING?

K'UEI MENG. HE OFTEN INVENTS TALES.

IT IS HIS WAY. HE LIVES IN DREAMS. I MUST LEARN.

I THANK YOU, FATHER, FOR SPEAKING WITH ME!

"K'UEI MENG **NEVER** RETURNED TO MY CLASSES.

"BUT I **NEVER** SUSPECTED MY FATHER OF **VILLAINY**. I NEVER **THOUGHT** TO SUSPECT HIM.

SHANG-CHI...



...A MAN WHO IS NOT AT PEACE **WITHIN HIMSELF** WILL NOT BE AT PEACE WITH **ANYTHING ELSE**.



YET MY FATHER **SEEMS** AT PEACE WITH HIS EVIL.

I SPEAK **NOT** OF YOUR **FATHER**, SHANG-CHI.



LU SUN, I DO NOT BELIEVE I **MAY** KNOW PEACE.

I HAVE **SWORN** TO END MY FATHER'S EMPIRE OF TERROR.



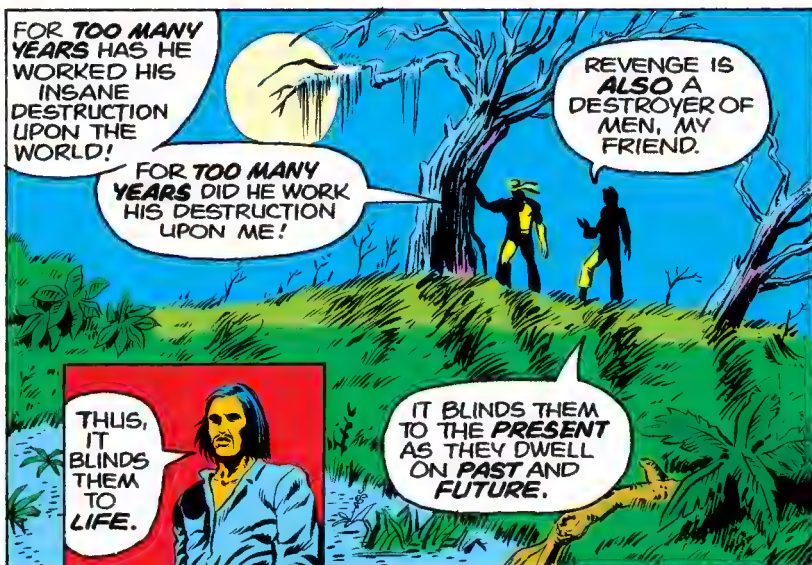
FOR **TOO MANY YEARS** HAS HE WORKED HIS **INSANE** DESTRUCTION UPON THE WORLD!

FOR **TOO MANY YEARS** DID HE WORK HIS DESTRUCTION UPON ME!

REVENGE IS **ALSO** A DESTROYER OF MEN, MY FRIEND.

IT BLINDS THEM TO THE **PRESENT** AS THEY DWELL ON **PAST** AND **FUTURE**.

THUS, IT BLINDS THEM TO **LIFE**.



BUT-- IF I CAN COMBAT AN EVIL, I **MUST DO SO**.

I CANNOT STAND **ALOOF**.

CAN A MAN DESTROY **EVIL**?



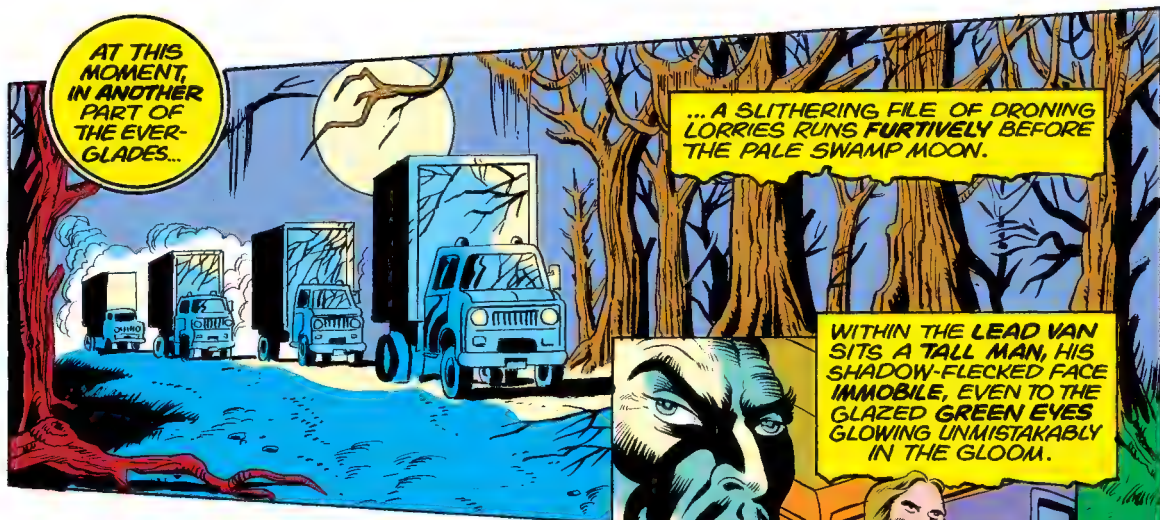
...NO.



ONE MAN MAY OVERCOME ANOTHER-- ONE **ARMY** MAY OVERCOME ANOTHER-- BUT THE **WORLD** IS NOT CHANGED.

MEN WILL **ALWAYS** CONTEND.

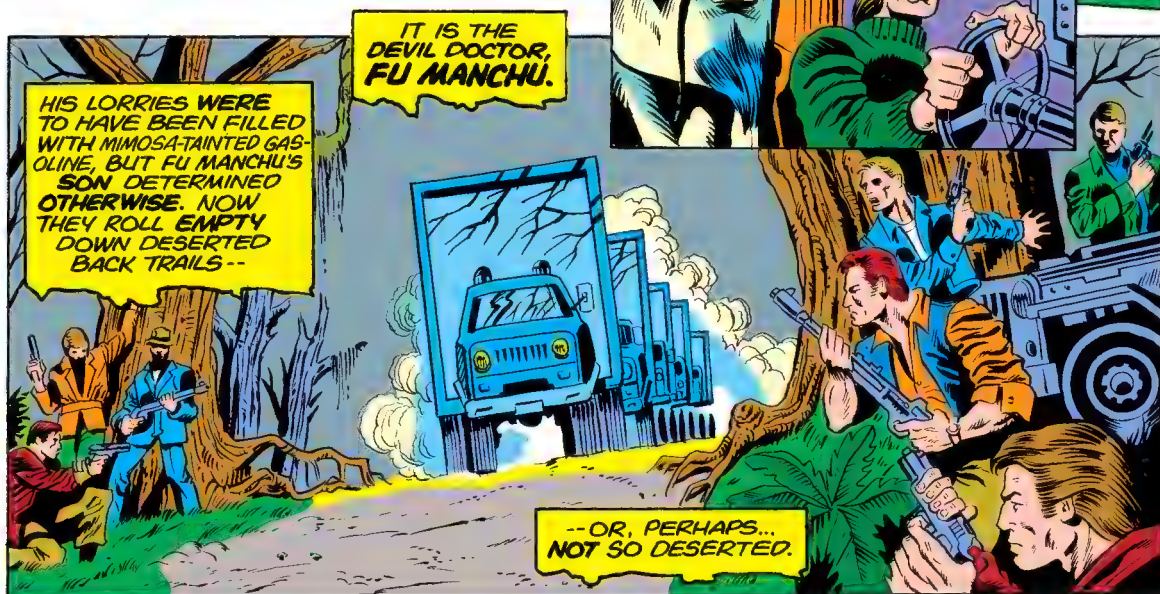




AT THIS
MOMENT,
IN ANOTHER
PART OF
THE EVER-
GLADES...

...A SLITHERING FILE OF DRONING
LORRIES RUNS FURTIVELY BEFORE
THE PALE SWAMP MOON.

WITHIN THE LEAD VAN
SITS A TALL MAN, HIS
SHADOW-FLECKED FACE
IMMOBILE, EVEN TO THE
GLAZED GREEN EYES
GLOWING UNMISTAKABLY
IN THE GLOOM.



IT IS THE
DEVIL DOCTOR,
FU MANCHU.

HIS LORRIES WERE
TO HAVE BEEN FILLED
WITH MIMOSA-TAINTED GAS-
OLINE, BUT FU MANCHU'S
SON DETERMINED
OTHERWISE. NOW
THEY ROLL EMPTY
DOWN DESERTED
BACK TRAILS--

--OR, PERHAPS...
NOT SO DESERTED.



NOW,
YOU
MEN!

STRIKE
NOW!



NAYLAND SMITH'S
CRY PRE-
CIPITATES
A HORDE
OF
NIGHT-
DARK
FIGURES
INTO THE
PALE
OCHER
LAMP-
LIGHT--

--THEIR INTRICATE
WEAPONRY COCKED
AND READY IN
THEIR ROCK-
STEADY FISTS,
AND THEIR
STATE AND
FEDERAL
BADGES
AT HAND!

THE MASTER OF THE SI-FAN'S
MEN GIVE THEIR REPLY!

KAPOW! KAPOW!
KRAK!
KRAK!
KRAK!

SUDDENLY, FRAMED IN A
STITCHWORK OF SCREAM-
ING DEATH--

--BLACK JACK TARR
COMES RACING TOWARD
THE LEAD VAN!

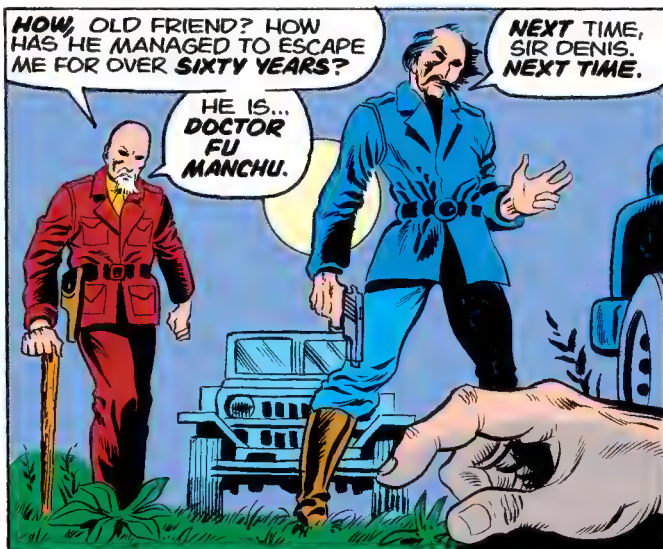
NAVLAND SMITH'S
AIDE-DE-CAMP
USUALLY PRE-
FERS THE
DIRECT ROUTE!

COME
QUIETLY,
DOCTOR,
OR I'LL--

HE'S
GONE!

--VANISHED-- FROM AN
ENCLOSED TRUCK THAT WAS
ALWAYS IN FULL VIEW!

HOW
COULD
THE
FIEND
HAVE
MANAGED
IT?

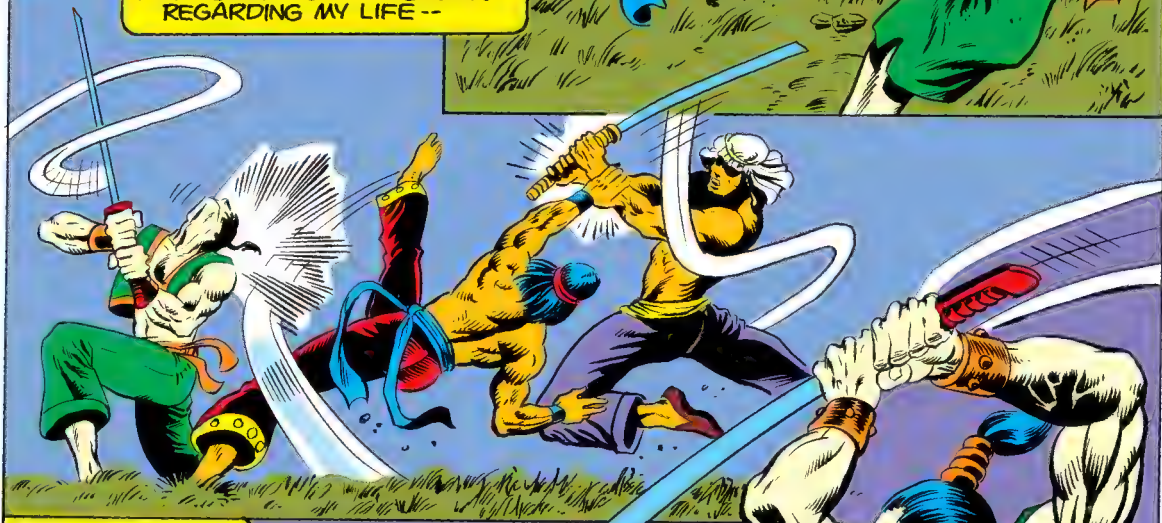


...WHO WILL NEVER GREET **OLD AGE**.



"THE WORDS OF LU SUN HAVE BEEN **FEW**, YET CHARGED WITH **QUIET INSIGHT**. HE IS THE **FIRST PERSON** WITH WHOM I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO **SPEAK** REGARDING MY LIFE--

"OBVIOUSLY, THEIR **ATTACK** OCCURS NEXT, AND I **TWIST FISH-LIKE** TO AVOID THEIR **PRECISION**."



"--AND THE **CON-TENTION** WITH JEKIN AND DAHAR BECOMES QUITE **DIFFERENT** FROM OUR EARLIER ENCOUNTERS."

"I AM NO **MORE** SKILLFUL, AND THEY NO **LESS**, BUT I HAVE BECOME THE **STRONGEST**."





"THEY KNOW THIS, INSTINCTIVELY, AND THEIR ACTIONS NOW ACQUIRE THE SHRILL EDGE OF FRENZY. I AM EVER MORE FLUID--"



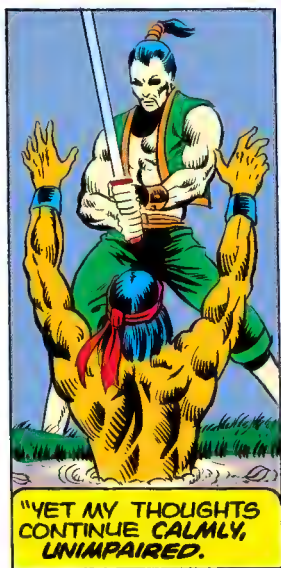
"--BUT EVEN AT THAT, I CANNOT KNOW OF HIDDEN--"

"--QUICKSAND!"

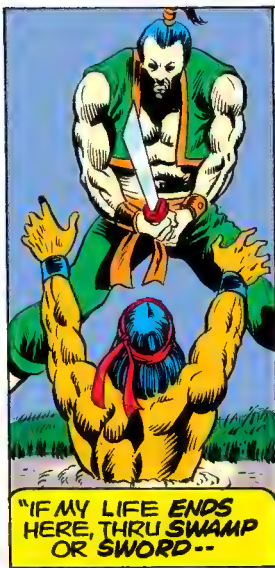


"MY FOOT HOLDS ME, MUCH AS DID THE SWAMP-CREATURE IN MY MADNESS--"

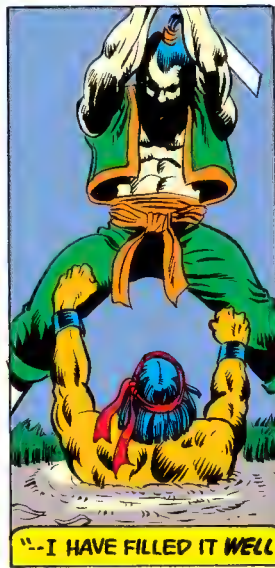
"--AND NOW, ALL SUPPORT GIVES WAY, PLUNGING ME TO MY HIPS IN THE CHURNING, CLINGING POOL."



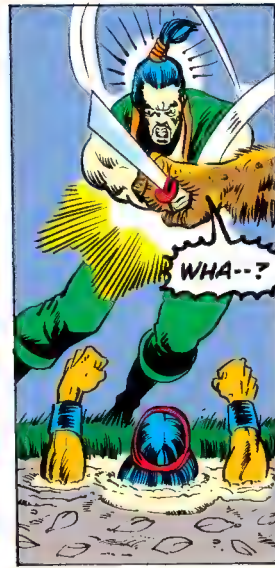
"YET MY THOUGHTS CONTINUE CALMLY, UNIMPAIRED."



"IF MY LIFE ENDS HERE, THRU SWAMP OR SWORD--"



"--I HAVE FILLED IT WELL."

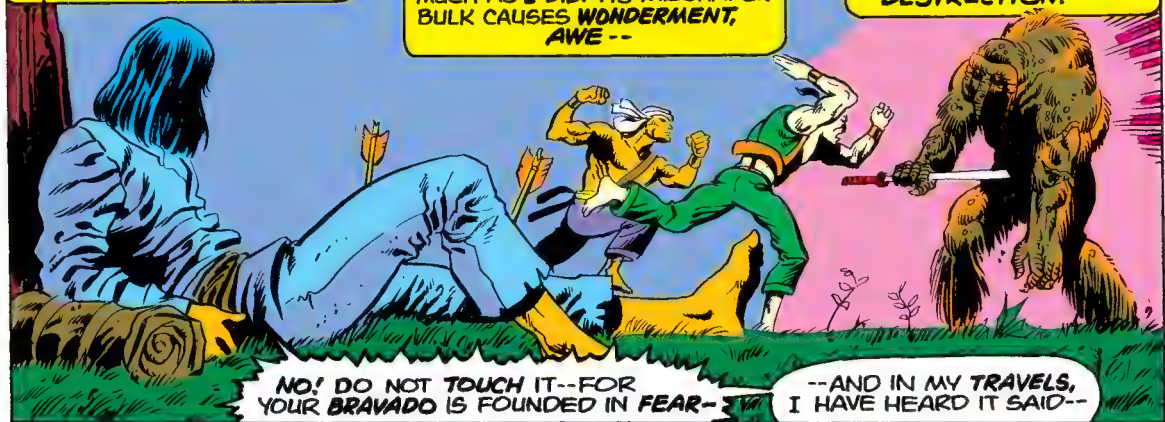


WHA--?

"IT IS THE SWAMP-CREATURE, COME SHUFFLING FROM THE STEAMING DARKNESS, FOR REASONS I MAY NEVER UNDERSTAND."

"MY TWO OPPONENTS TURN AS ONE TOWARD THE BEHEMOTH, AND RESPOND TO THEIR FIRST SIGHT OF IT MUCH AS I DID. ITS MISSHAPEN BULK CAUSES WONDERMENT, AWE --"

"--AND IN THESE HUNTERS, MINDS ALREADY FIRED WITH THE BLOOD-LUST, IT AROUSES A NEED FOR DESTRUCTION."



NO! DO NOT TOUCH IT--FOR YOUR BRAVADO IS FOUNDED IN FEAR--

--AND IN MY TRAVELS, I HAVE HEARD IT SAID--



WHOEVER KNOWS FEAR-- BURNS AT THE MAN-THING'S TOUCH!

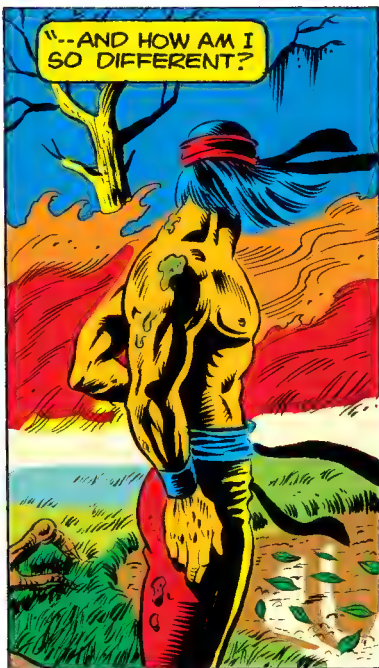
"THE MAN-THING. SO THE CREATURE HAS A RECOGNIZED IDENTITY IN THE WORLD."

"THE MAN-THING: A MINDLESS MOCKERY OF A MAN--"



"--WREAKING HAVOC WITHOUT THOUGHT--"

"--AND HOW AM I SO DIFFERENT?"



"WHEN I HAVE CONTENTED AGAINST MY FATHER AND HIS ACOLYTES, I HAVE USED ONLY NECESSARY FORCE -- I HAVE NOT ABUSED MY SKILLS THROUGH THE USE OF VIOLENCE --"



"--BUT HAVE I NOT ABUSED THEM THROUGH USING THEM AT ALL?"

LU SUN...
WOULD YOU
CONTENT
AGAINST
FU MANCHU?



WOULD YOU,
SHANG-CHI?



"I HEAR THE BIRDS SINGING. DAWN HAS ARRIVED."

NEXT ISSUE: **WEAPON** OF THE **SOUL**

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

25¢
©

20
SEPT
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU™

WATCH OUT, SHANG-CHI!
HERE COMES THE
DEATH-DEALING
SAMURAI!



MARTIAL
ARTS
MAYHEM!
MARVEL
STYLE
ACTION!!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

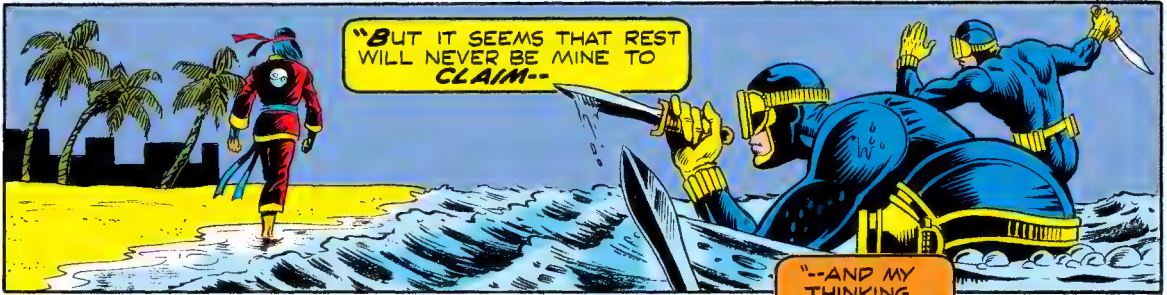
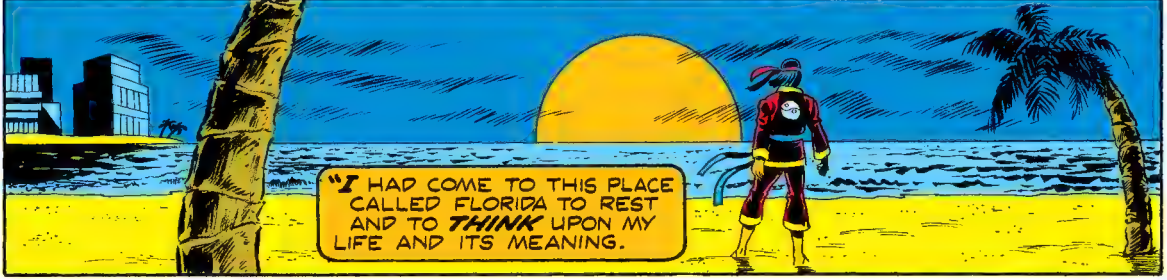
GERRY CONWAY
SPEECH

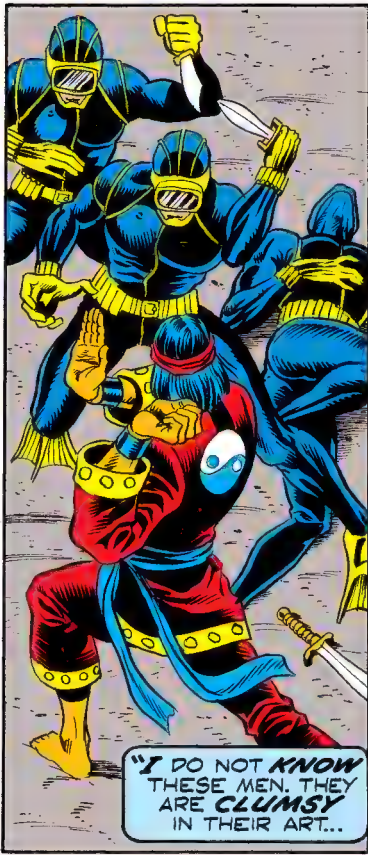
PAUL GULACY
VISION

AL MILGROM
WEIGHT

DAVE HUNT
LETTERS
G. ROUSSOS
COLORS

ROY THOMAS
DIRECTION

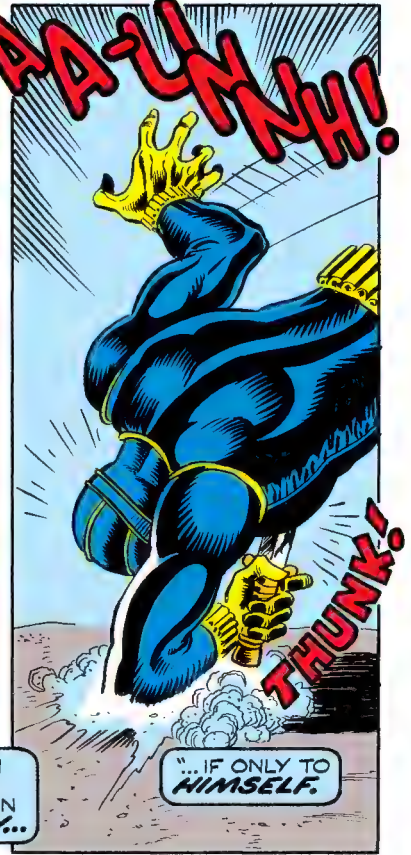




"I DO NOT *KNOW* THESE MEN. THEY ARE *CLUMSY* IN THEIR ART...



"...BUT EVEN A CLUMSY ASSASSIN CAN BE *DEADLY*...



"...IF ONLY TO *HIMSELF*."



"I TURN NOW TO FACE MY *REMAINING* ASSAILANT. I SENSE THAT *HE* IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE THREE--"

"--FOR IT IS HE WHO HAS *WAITED* AND *WATCHED* WHILE THE OTHERS ATTACKER



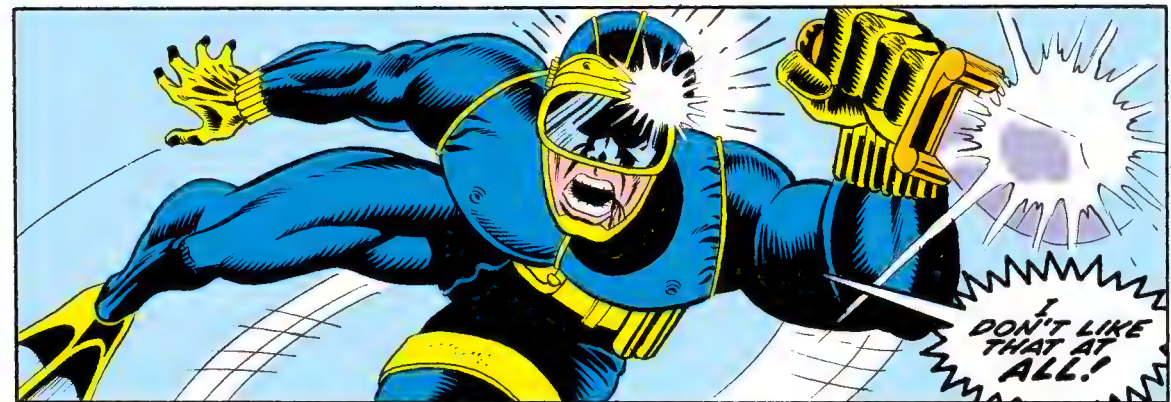
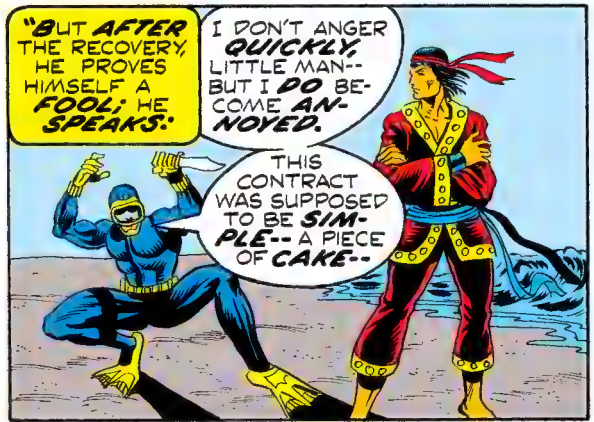
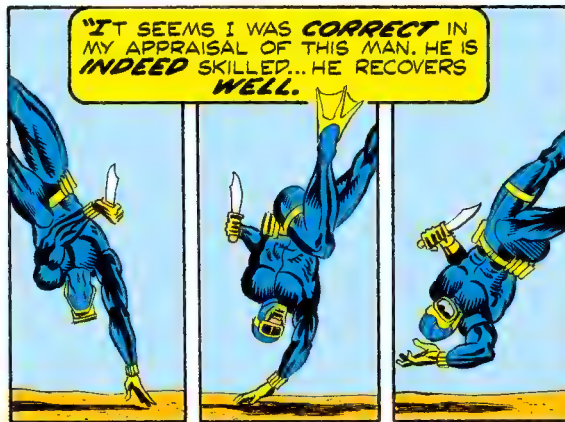
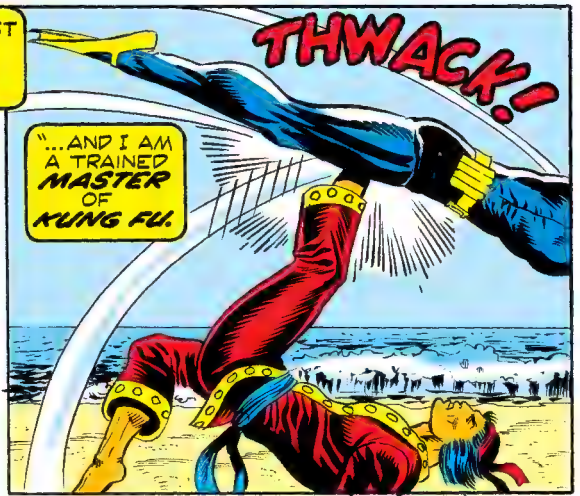
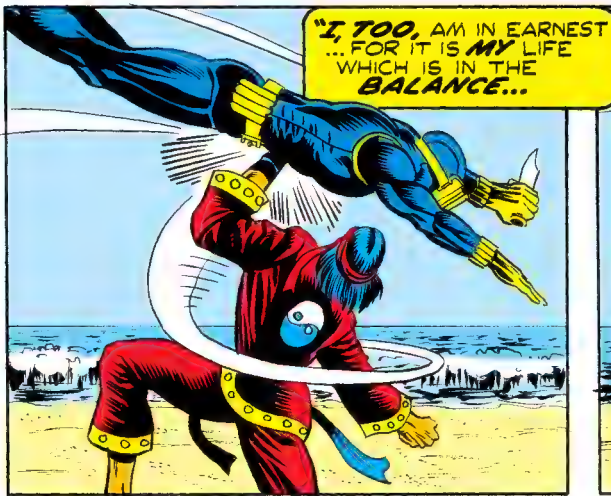
"WITH A GRACE I DID NOT EXPECT, HE STRIKES--*TEN-TATIVELY*-- AND JUDGES MY RESPONSE."

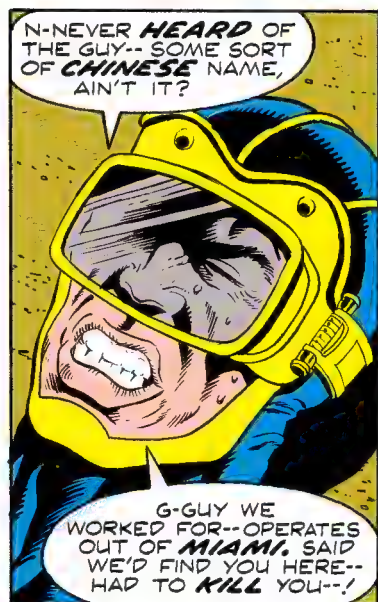
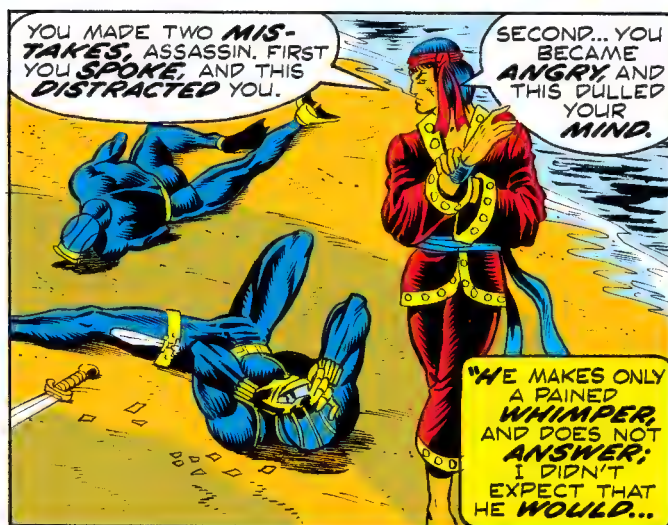
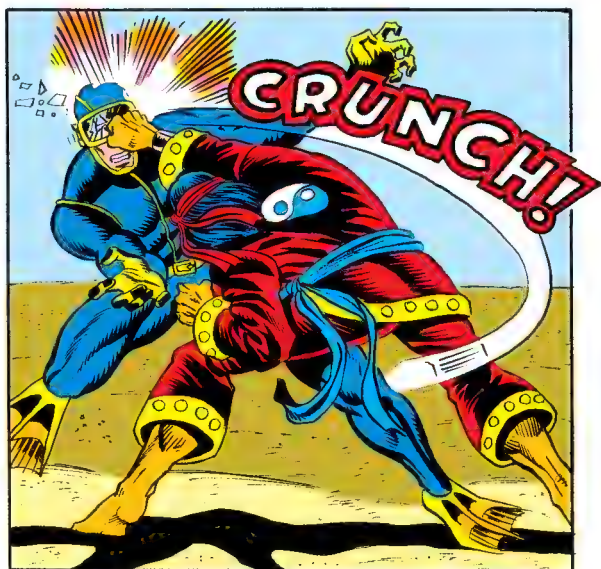
"IN TRUTH, *THIS* MAN IS A MASTER ASSASSIN. HE LEAVES *NOTHING* TO CHANCE..."

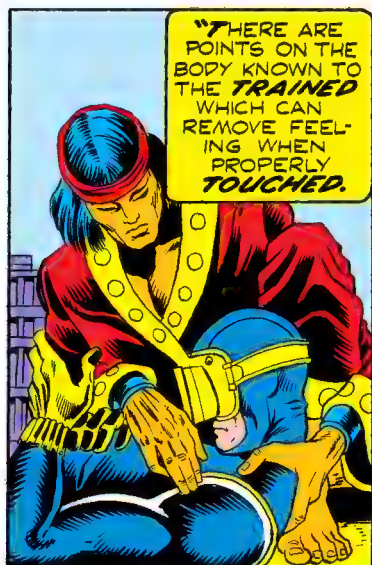


"...AND WHEN HE ATTACKS AGAIN, IT IS IN *EARNEST*."

HUUU--YU!







"THERE ARE POINTS ON THE BODY KNOWN TO THE **TRAINED** WHICH CAN REMOVE FEELING WHEN PROPERLY **TOUCHED**."

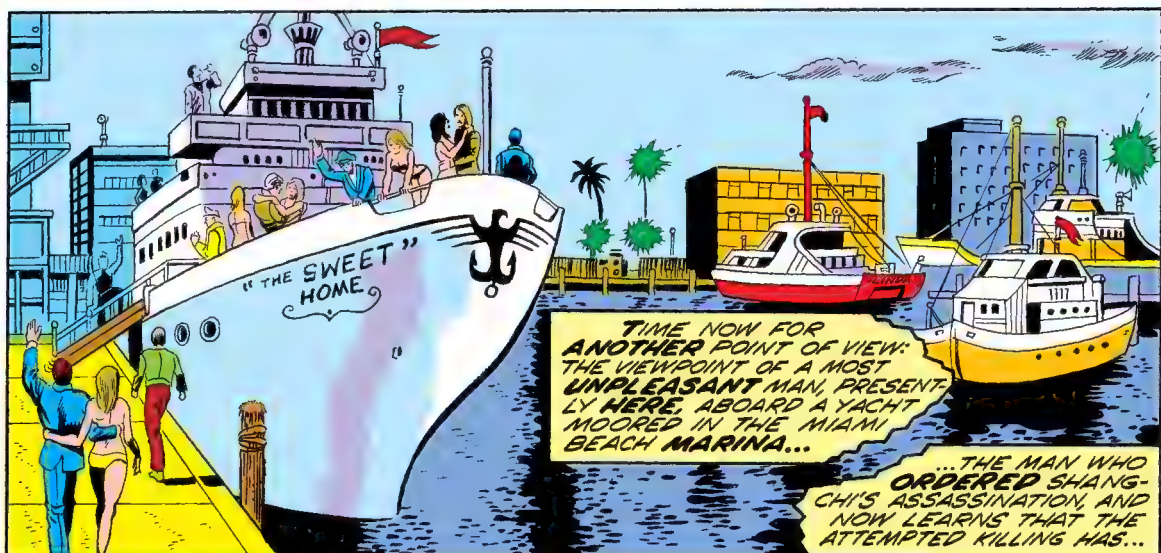


"I HAVE NO **DESIRE** TO INFLICT SUFFERING, AND I WOULD HAVE HELPED THE MAN IN **ANY** CASE, NO DOUBT..."



"...THOUGH **HE** WOULD NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT..."

"...FOR ASSASSINS ARE A PARTICULARLY **UNTRUSTING** LOT, INDEED."



TIME NOW FOR ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW: THE VIEWPOINT OF A MOST **UNPLEASANT** MAN, PRESENTLY HERE, ABOARD A YACHT MOORED IN THE MIAMI BEACH MARINA...

...THE MAN WHO ORDERED SHANG-CHI'S ASSASSINATION, AND NOW LEARNS THAT THE ATTEMPTED KILLING HAS...



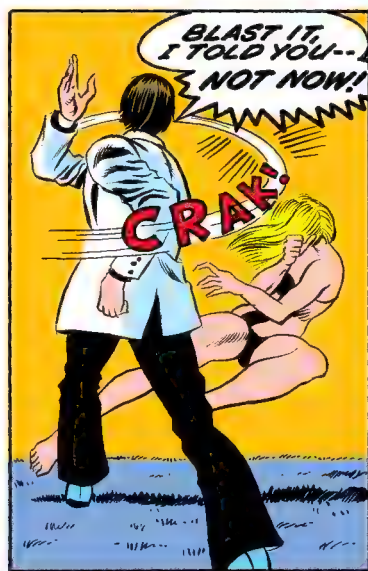
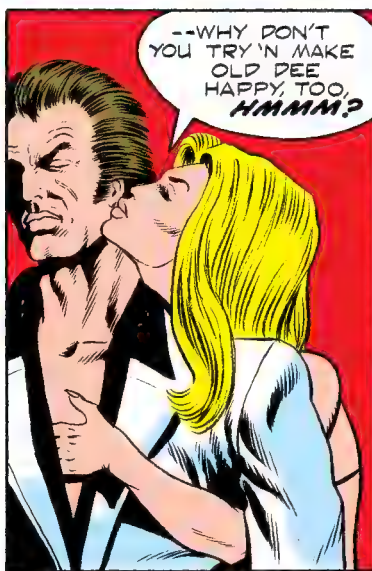
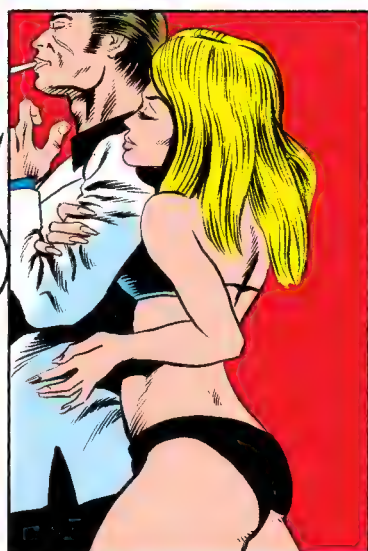
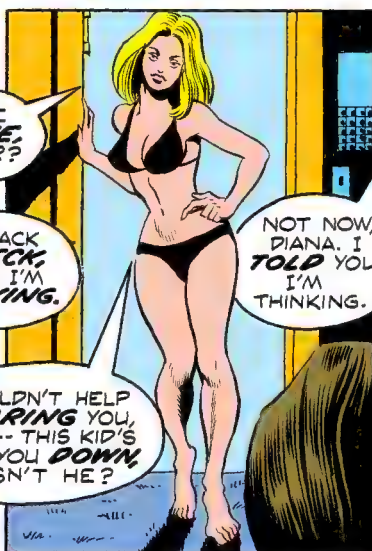
...**FAILED**, MR. MARSTON.

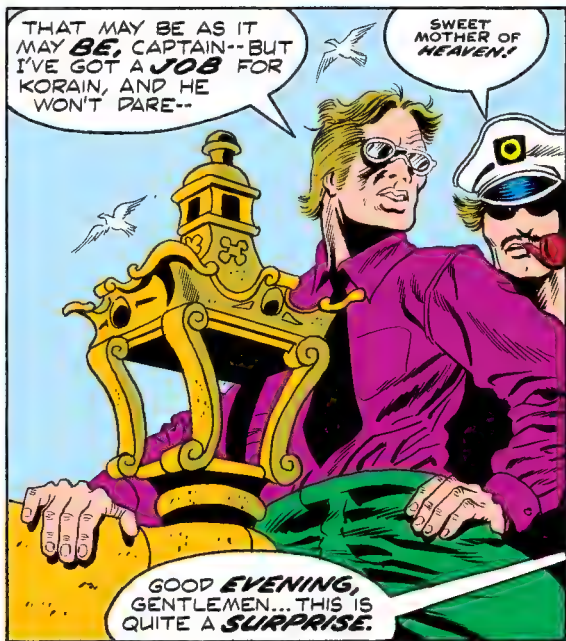
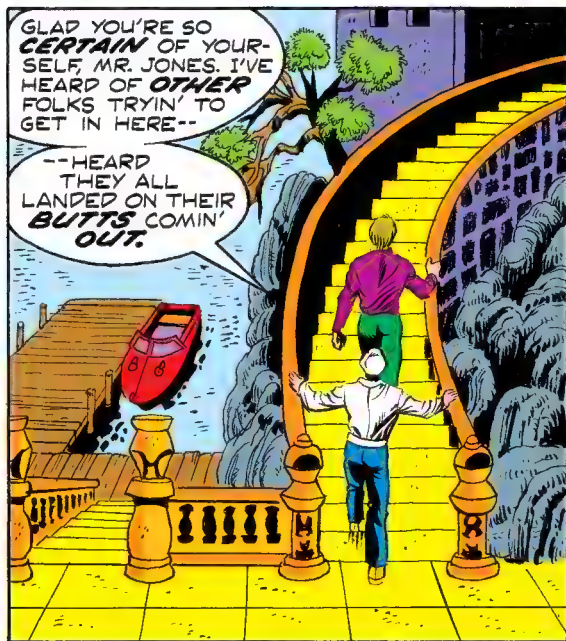
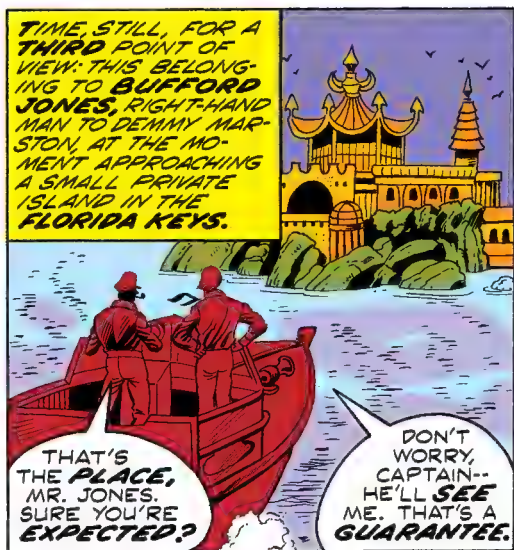
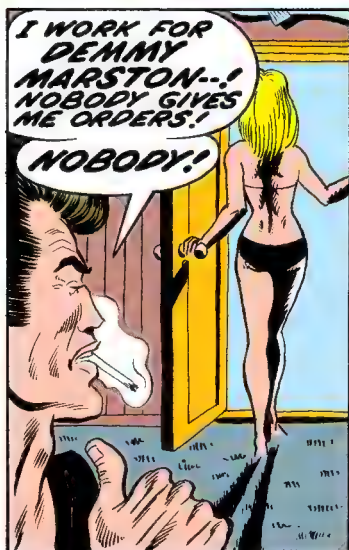
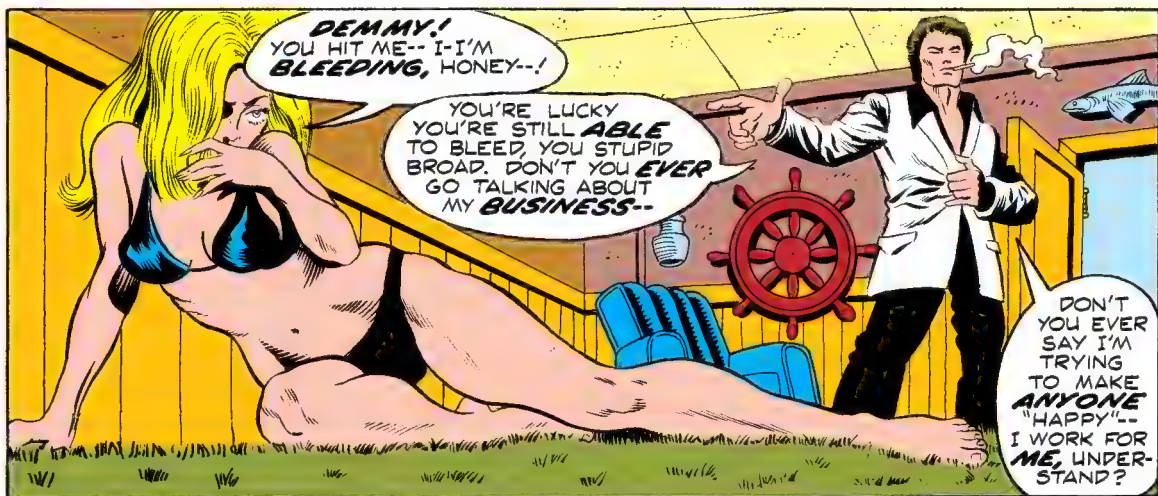
I SEE. I'M SORRY TO **HEAR** THAT, BUFFORD.

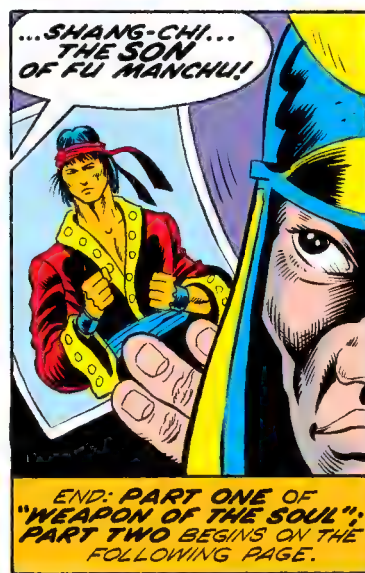
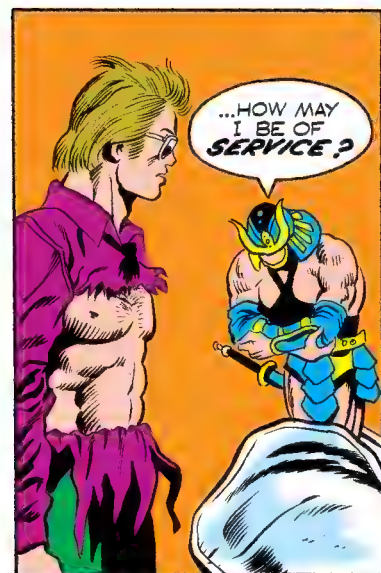
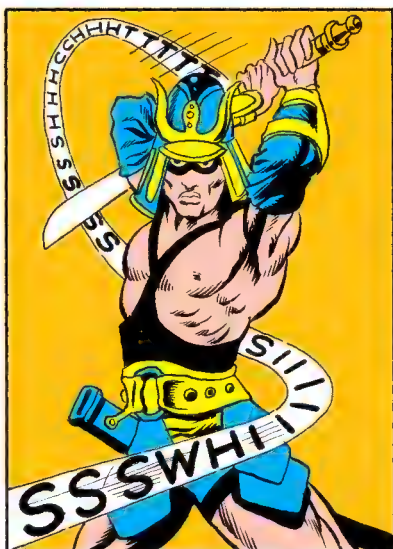


I'M AFRAID IT **COMPLICATES** MATTERS, SOMEWHAT.

WE'LL HAVE TO CONTACT **KORAIN**, AFTER ALL.







PART TWO: POISON of the SOUL

"IT IS GRAY, AND **ALIEN**...
...A COLD HARD **INTRUDER** TO THE GRACE AND
SERENITY OF THAT WHICH
IT **DISPLACES**...



"...SEEN HERE, IN THE SILENT
DARKNESS DEEPER THAN **NIGHT**...

"...SEEN **HERE**, BELOW
THE TRANQUIL--



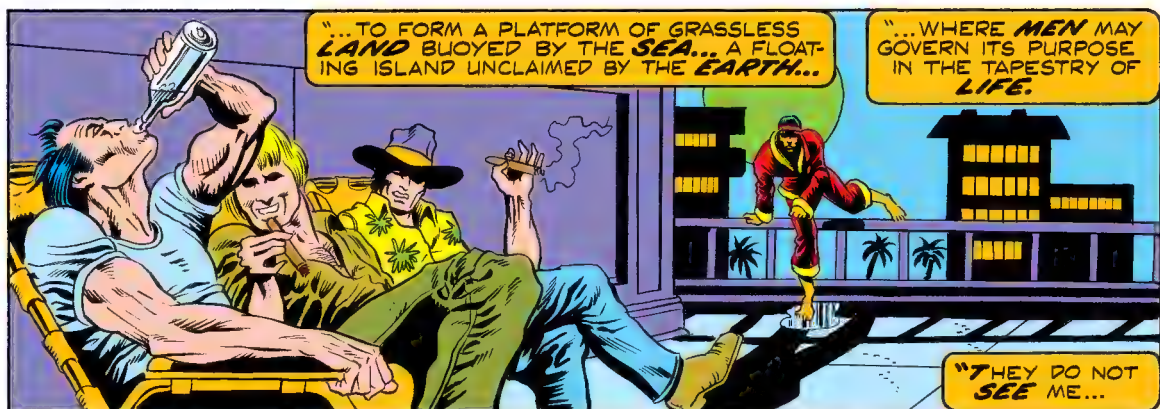
"--WATER.

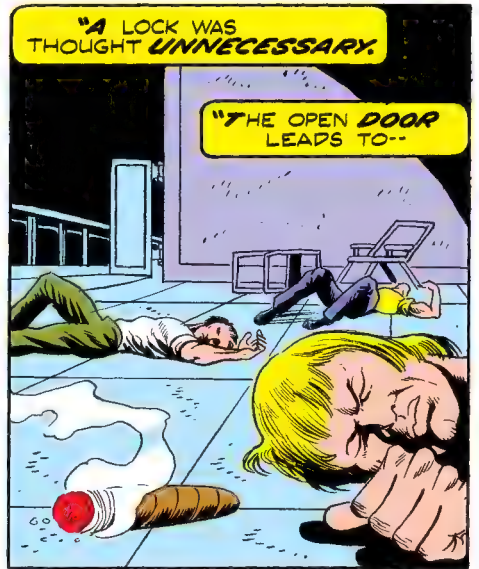
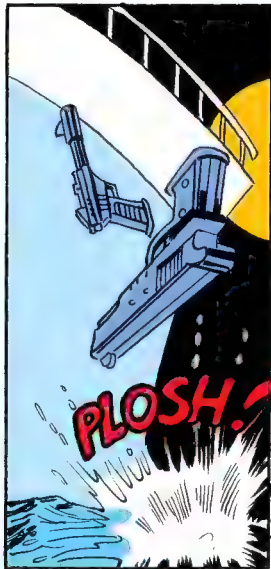
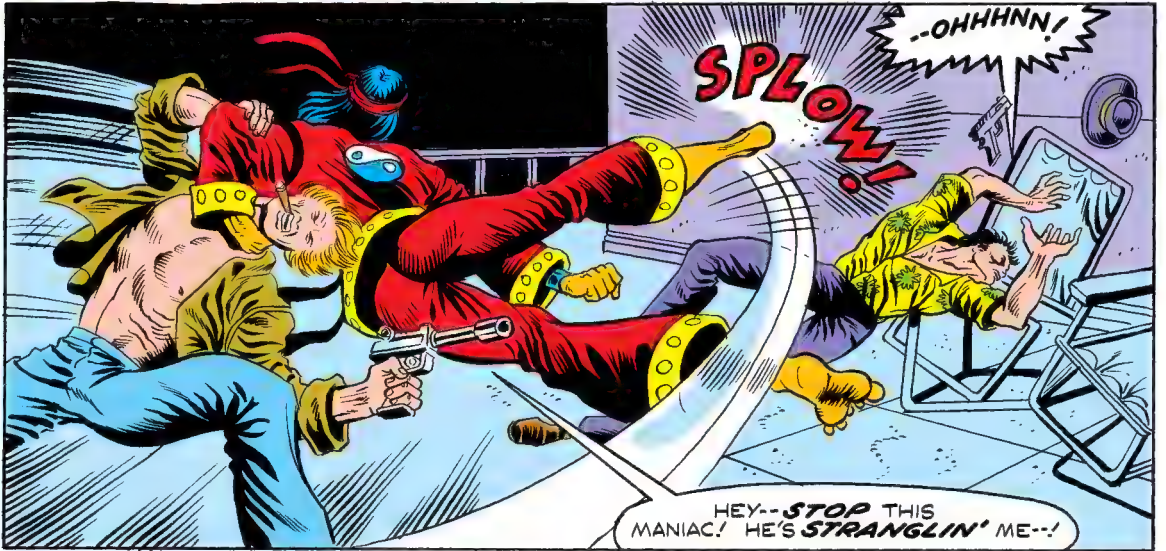
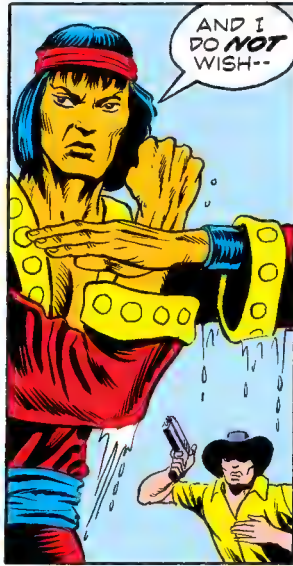
"ABOVE
THE
SEA--

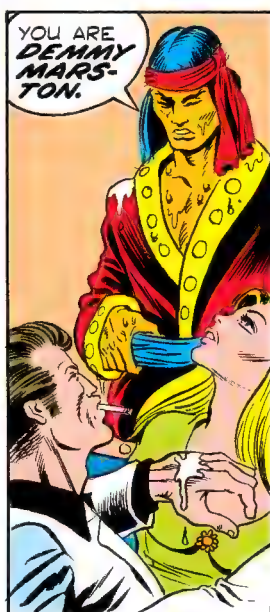
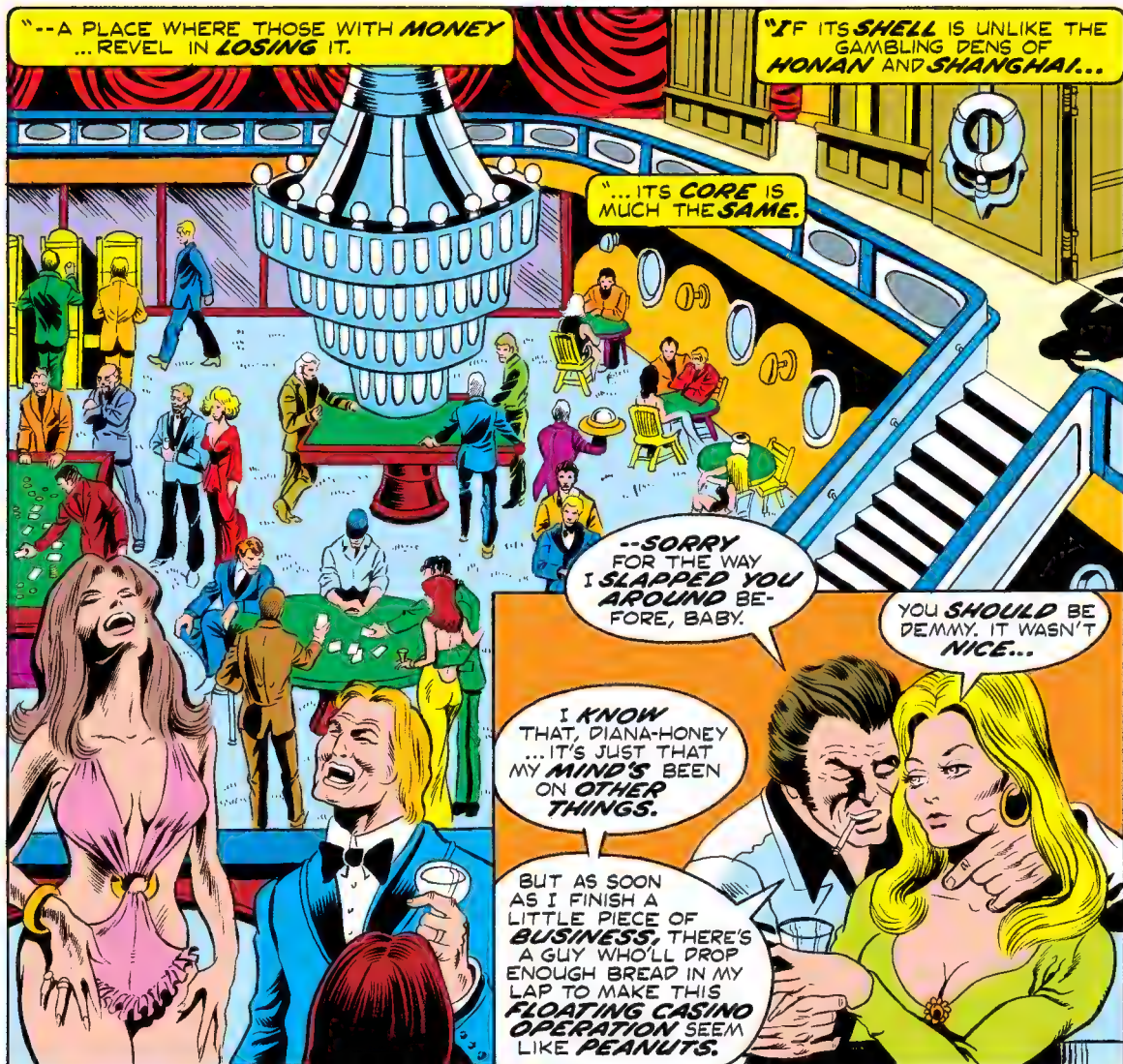


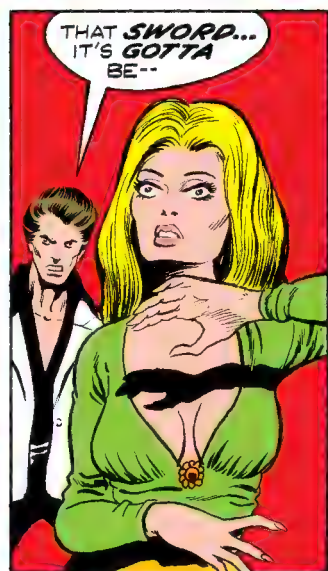
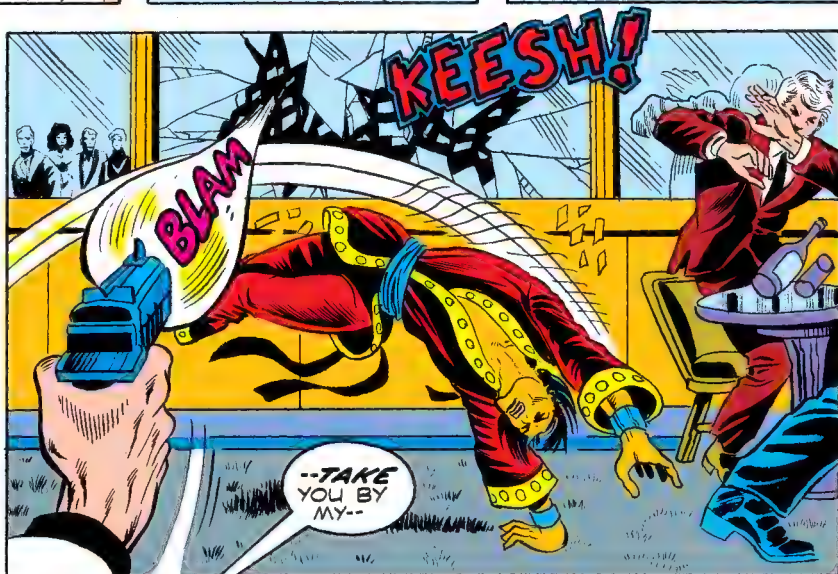
"--IT **RISES**...











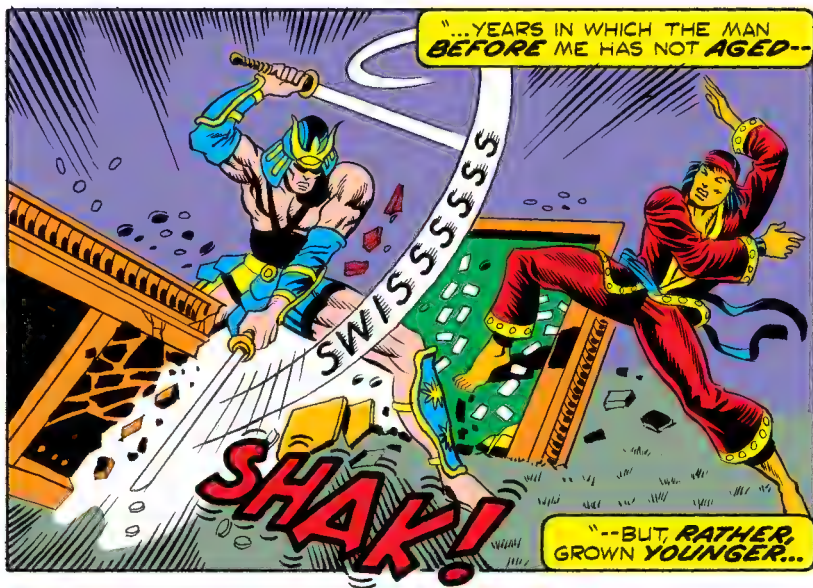


"KORAIN... I REMEMBER THE MAN. HIS UNSURPASSED SKILL WITH THE SAMURAI GAINED HIM A POSITION OF HIGH RESPECT IN MY FATHER'S COURT IN HONAN..."

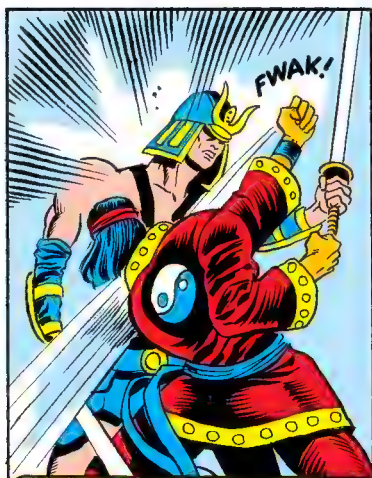
"BUT I WAS A MERE CHILD THEN. MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED..."



"...YEARS IN WHICH THE MAN BEFORE ME HAS NOT AGED--"



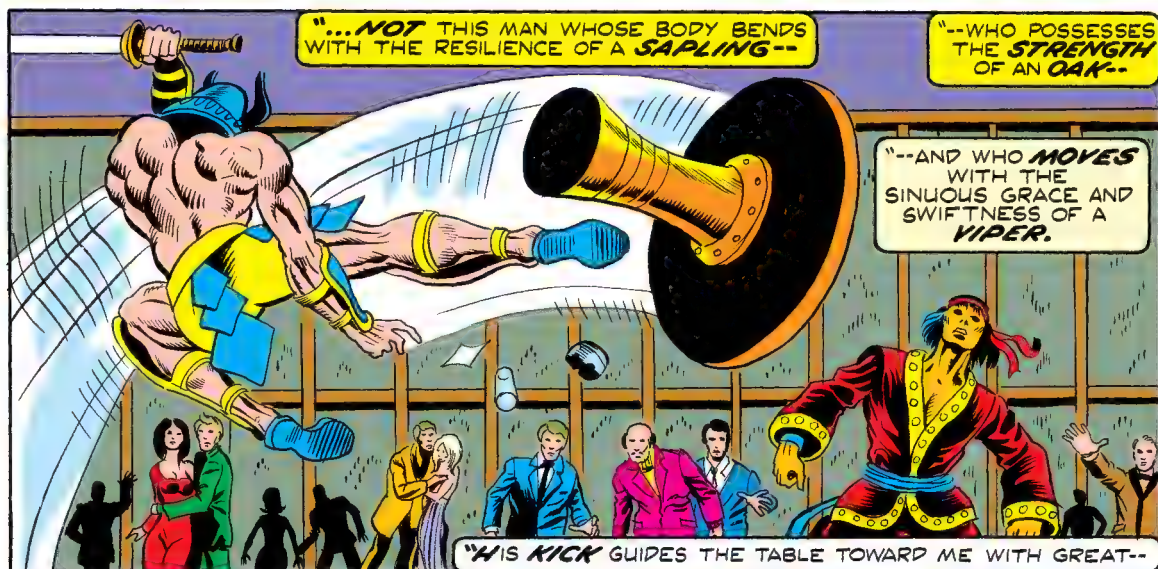
"--BUT, RATHER, GROWN YOUNGER..."



"...FOR HE WAS THEN A MAN WHO WAS ALMOST TOO OLD TO WIELD THE SWORD..."



"...A MAN WHO WOULD SOON RETIRE FROM THE RANKS OF THE SAMURAI..."

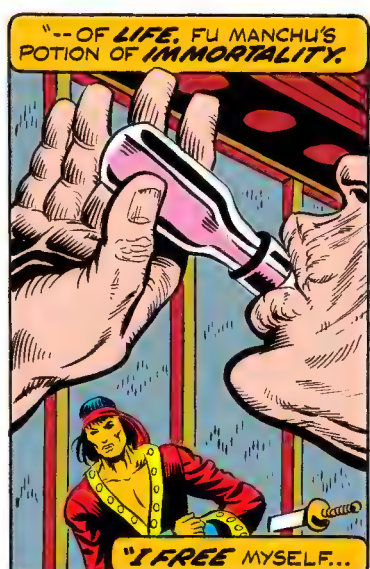
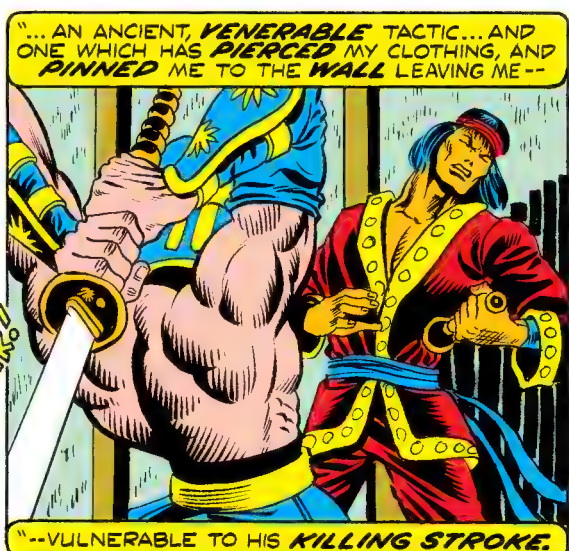
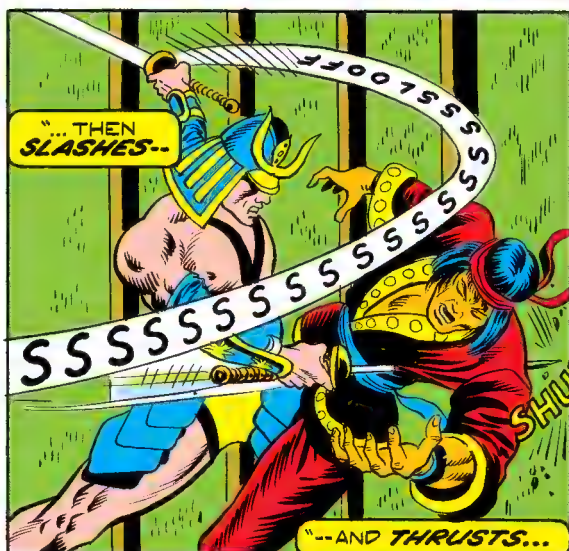
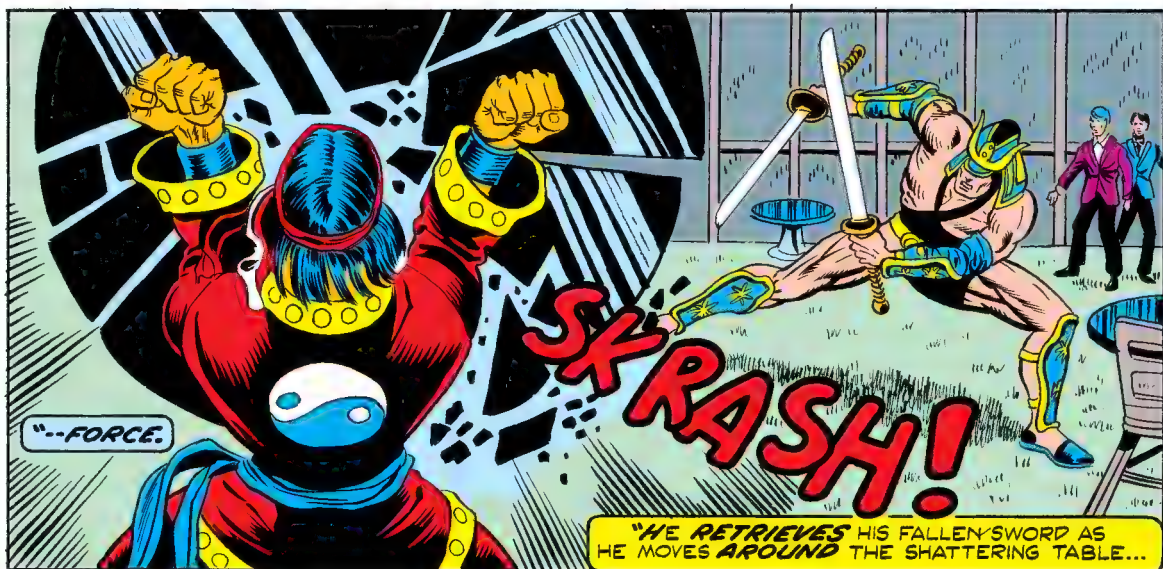


"...NOT THIS MAN WHOSE BODY BENDS WITH THE RESILIENCE OF A SAPLING--"

"--WHO POSSESSES THE STRENGTH OF AN OAK--"

"--AND WHO MOVES WITH THE SINOUS GRACE AND SWIFTNESS OF A VIPER."

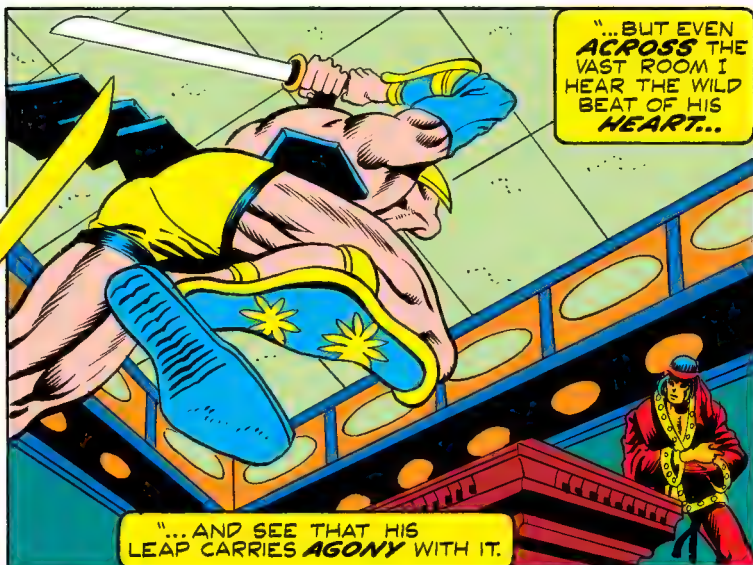
"HIS KICK GUIDES THE TABLE TOWARD ME WITH GREAT--"



"...IN TIME TO SEE THE
ELIXIR'S POWER BLOSSOM
WITHIN HIM.



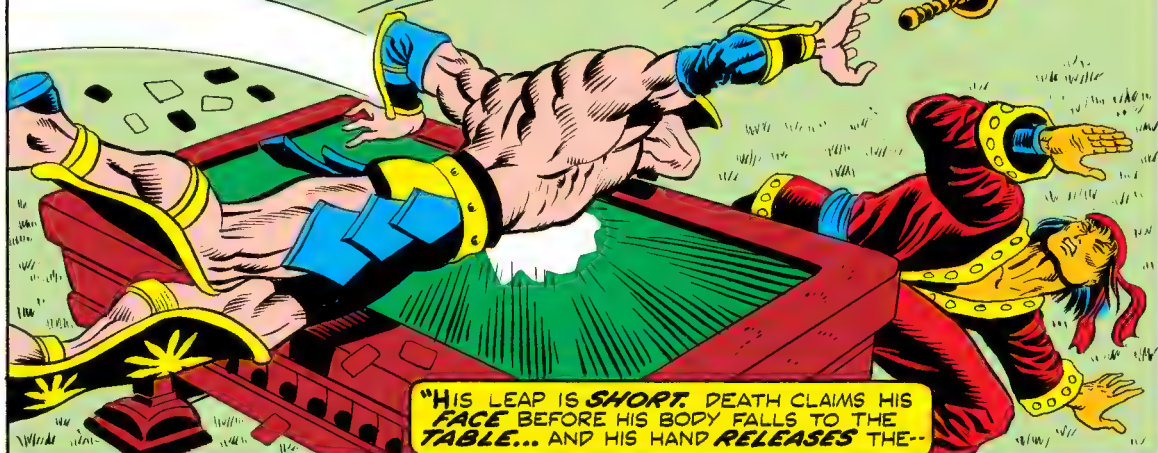
"THE RAPTURE OF RENEUED
YOUTH AND STRENGTH
FILLS HIM WITH *ECSTASY*...



"...BUT EVEN
ACROSS THE
VAST ROOM I
HEAR THE WILD
BEAT OF HIS
HEART...

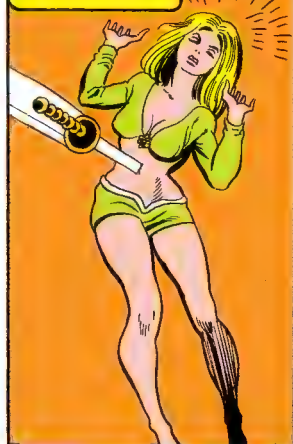
"...AND SEE THAT HIS
LEAP CARRIES *AGONY* WITH IT.

"KORAIN HAS USED THE
ELIXIR MORE TIMES THAN
HIS HEART MAY *ENDURE*.



"HIS LEAP IS *SHORT*. DEATH CLAIMS HIS
FACE BEFORE HIS BODY FALLS TO THE
TABLE... AND HIS HAND RELEASES THE--

"--SWORD.

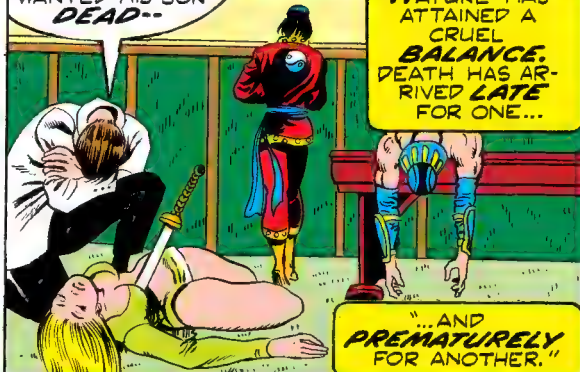


DIANA--!

MY
GOD--
DIANA!!

FORGIVE ME,
DIANA-- BUT I DID
IT FOR YOU. I
KNEW FU MANCHU
WANTED HIS SON
DEAD--

--THOUGHT HE'D REWARD
ME... IF I ARRANGED SHANG-
CHI'S DEATH...



"NATURE HAS
ATTAINED A
CRUEL
BALANCE.
DEATH HAS AR-
RIVED *LATE*
FOR ONE...

"...AND
PREMATURELY
FOR ANOTHER."

NEXT
ISSUE: **MURDER AT MARINELAND**

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



25¢
©

21
OCT
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU

SEASON OF VENGEANCE...

EAT COLD
STEEL,
PAJAMA-
BOY!

NO!
HE'S
DEFLECTED
IT--RIGHT
BACK AT
ME!!

...MOMENT OF DEATH!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China, retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of KungFu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my name."

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

DOUG MOENCH
WRITER

RON WILSON & AL MILGROM
ARTISTS

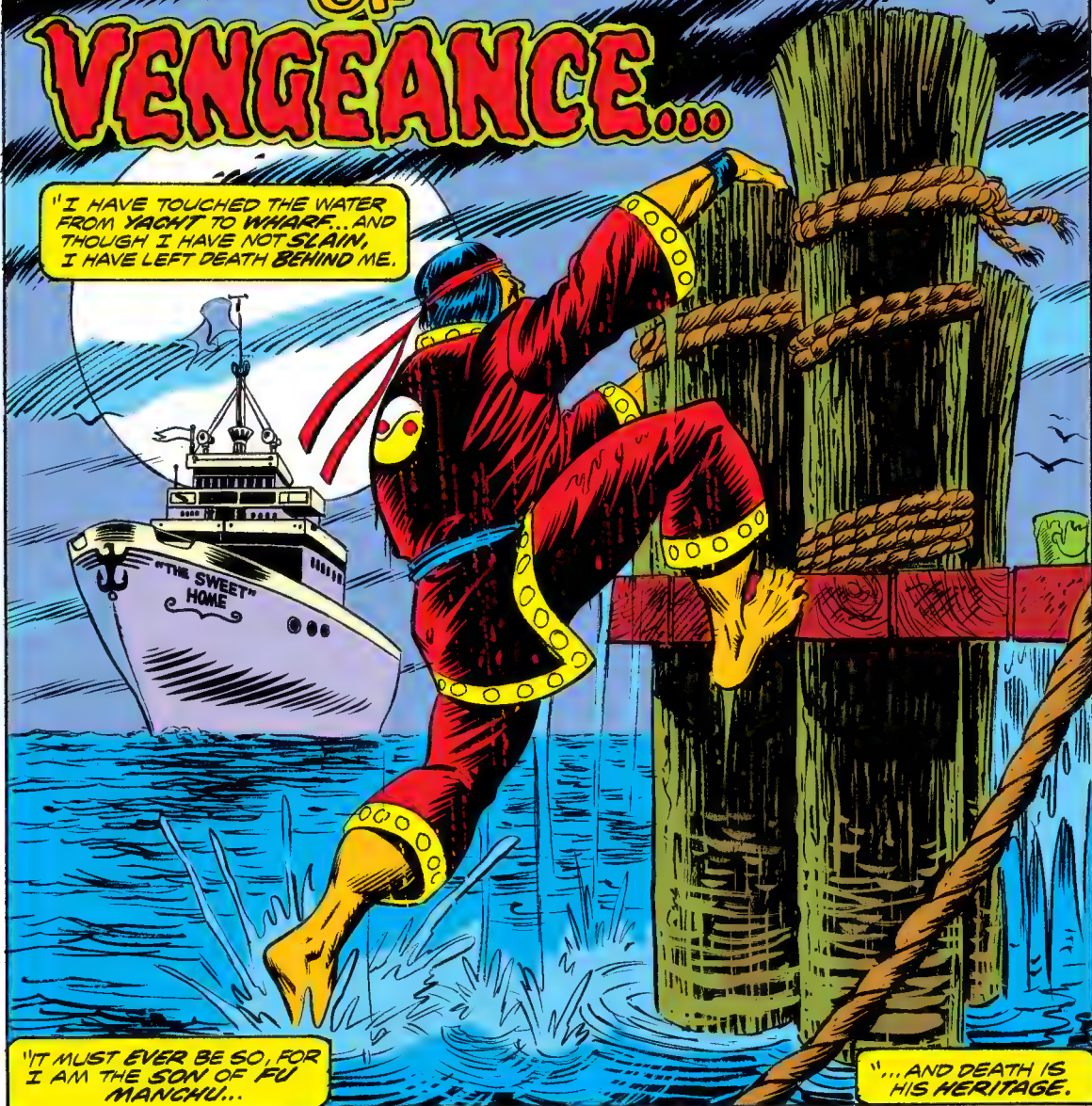
JOHN COSTANZA, letterer
STAN GOLDBERG, colorist

ROY THOMAS
EDITOR

SEASON OF VENGEANCE...

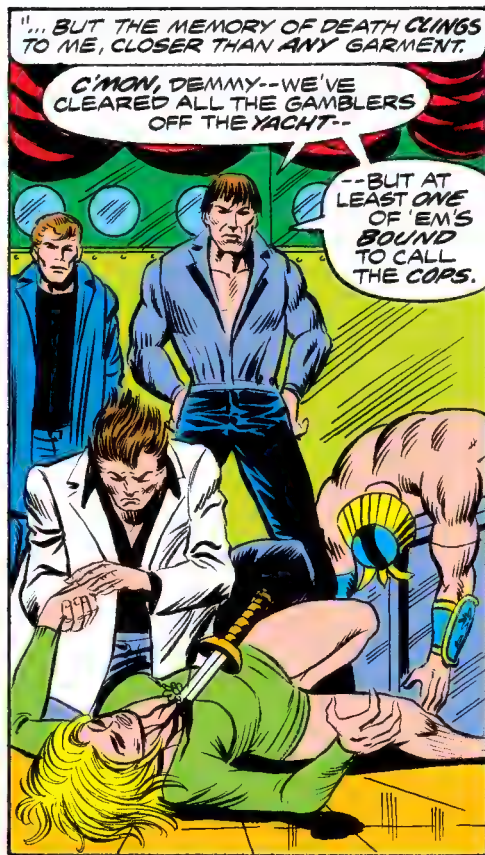
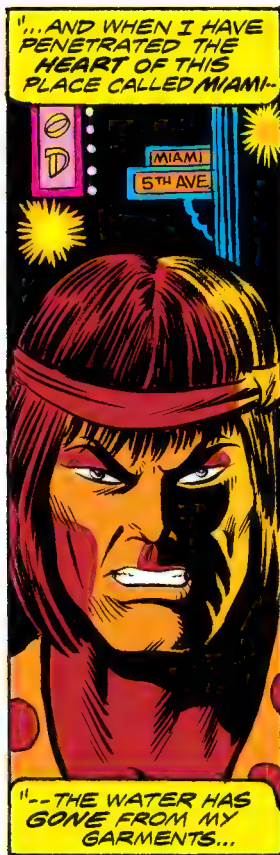
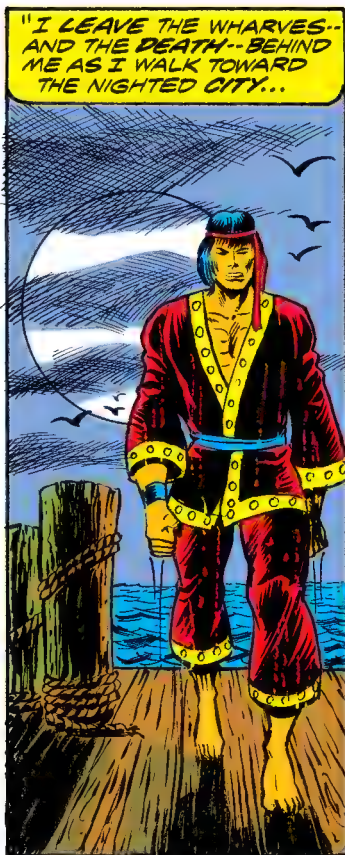
FEATURING SUPPORTING
CHARACTERS CREATED
BY SAX ROHMER.

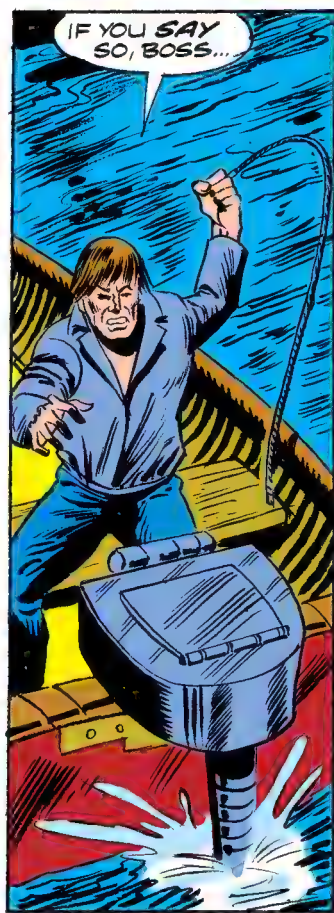
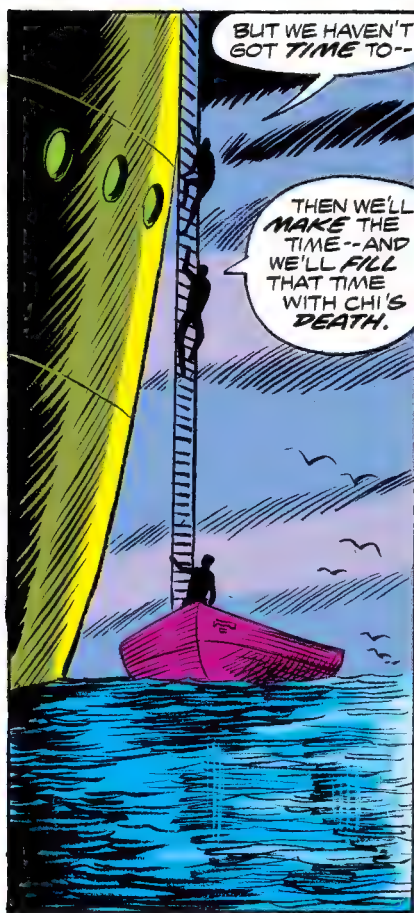
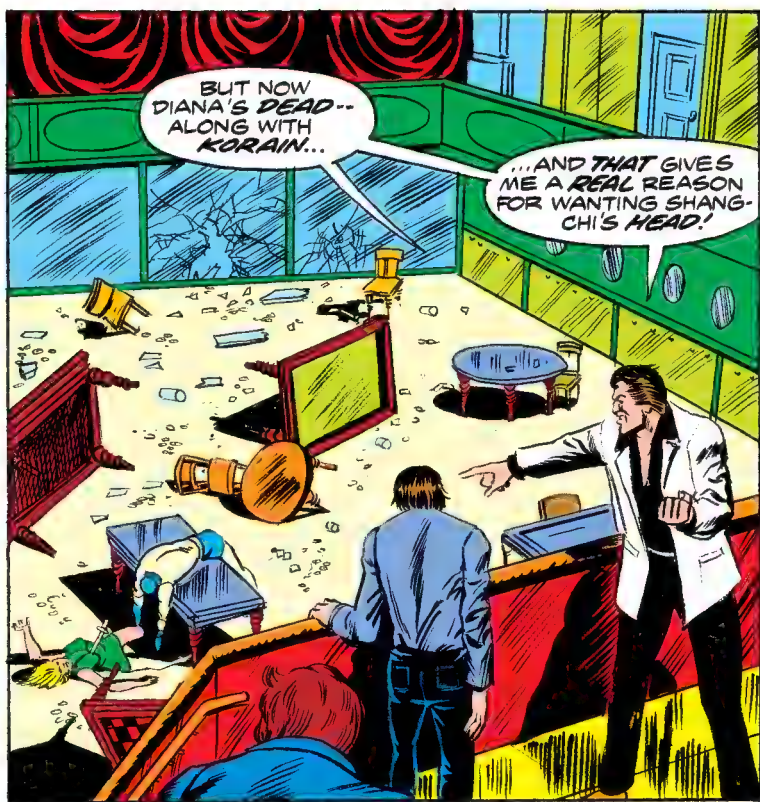
"I HAVE TOUCHED THE WATER
FROM YACHT TO WHARF... AND
THOUGH I HAVE NOT SLAIN,
I HAVE LEFT DEATH BEHIND ME.

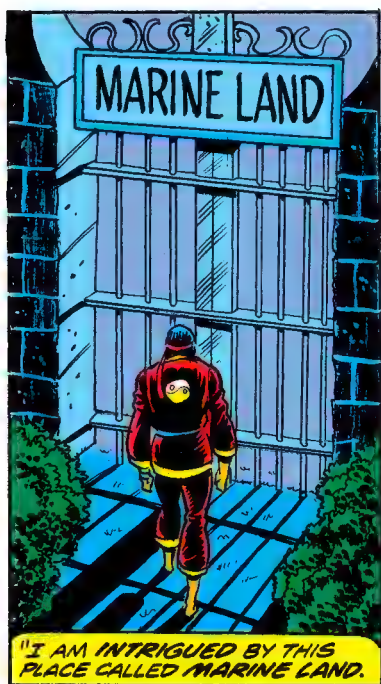


"IT MUST EVER BE SO, FOR
I AM THE SON OF FU
MANCHU..."

"...AND DEATH IS
HIS HERITAGE."



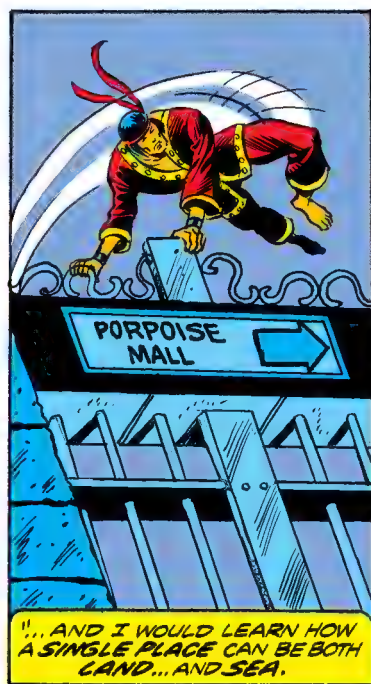




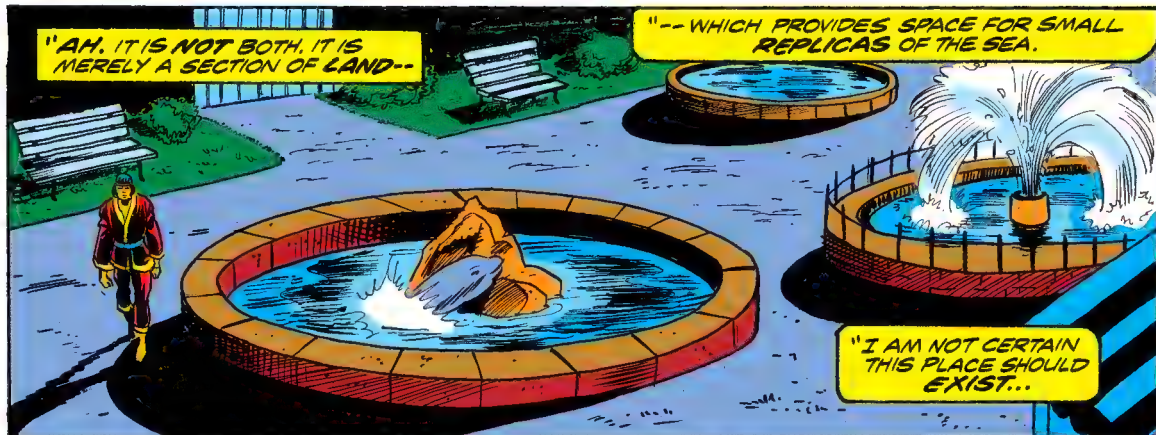
"I AM INTRIGUED BY THIS PLACE CALLED MARINE LAND."



"ITS NAME PUZZLES ME..."



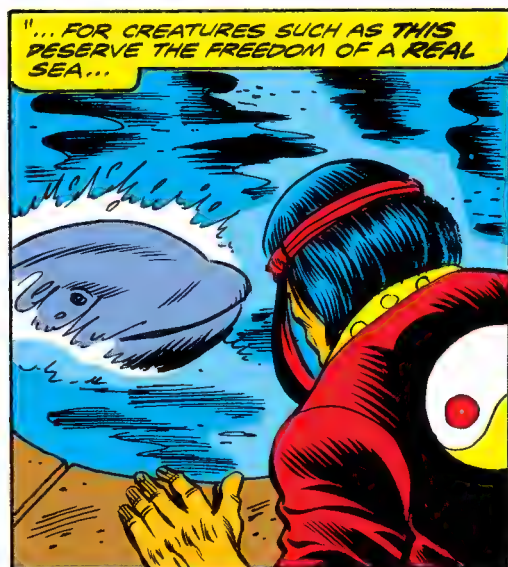
"... AND I WOULD LEARN HOW A SINGLE PLACE CAN BE BOTH LAND... AND SEA."



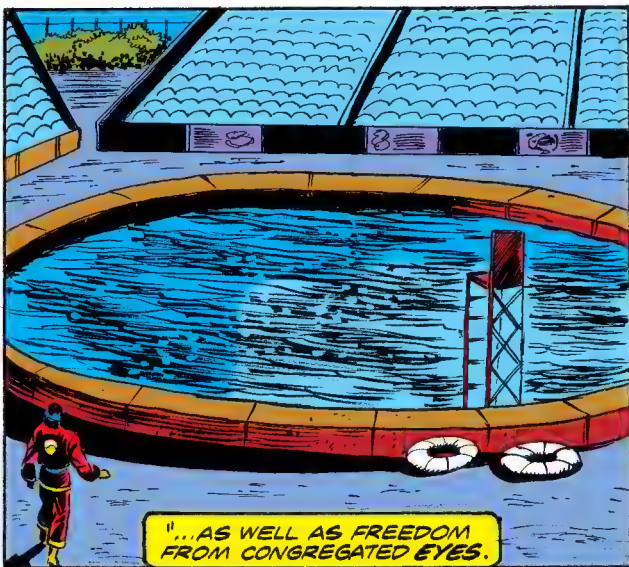
"AH, IT IS NOT BOTH, IT IS MERELY A SECTION OF LAND--"

"-- WHICH PROVIDES SPACE FOR SMALL REPLICAS OF THE SEA."

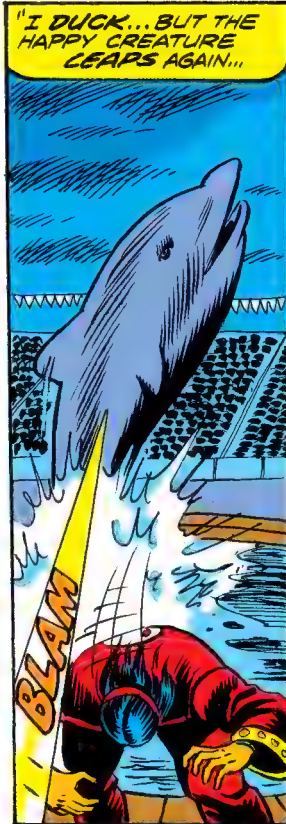
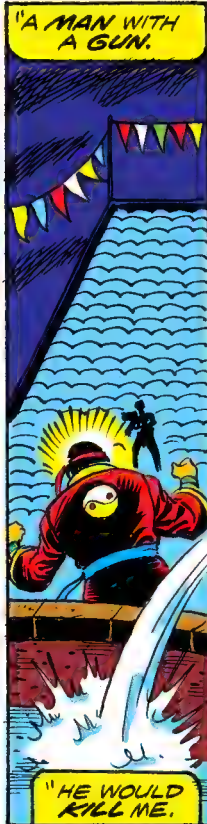
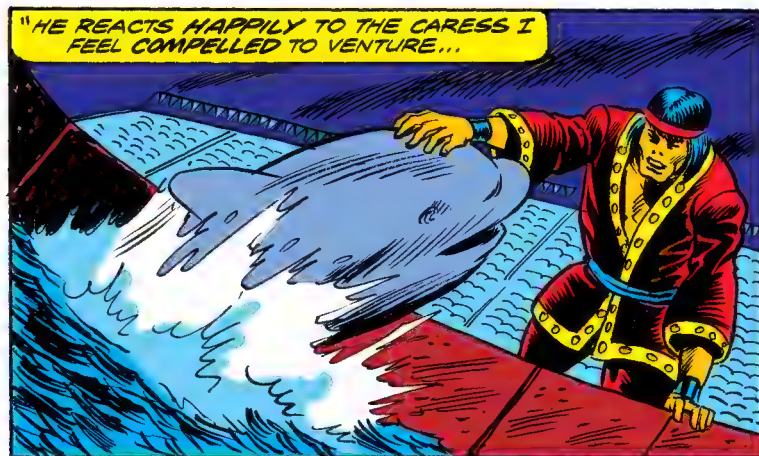
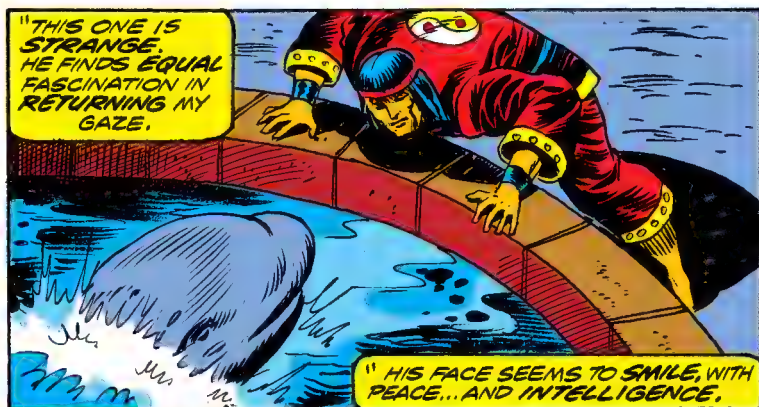
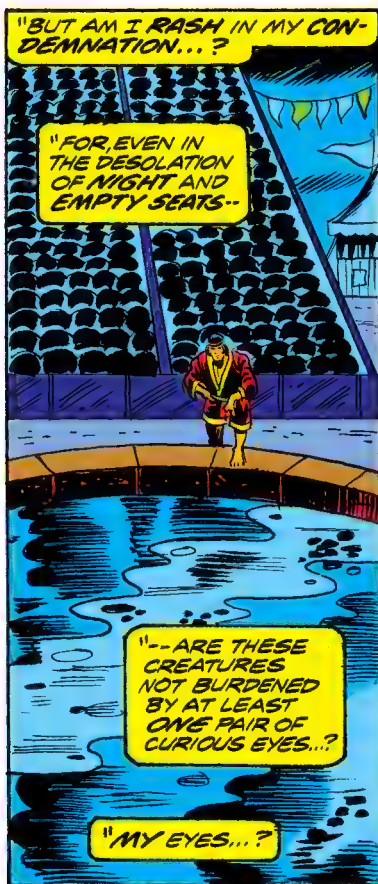
"I AM NOT CERTAIN THIS PLACE SHOULD EXIST..."

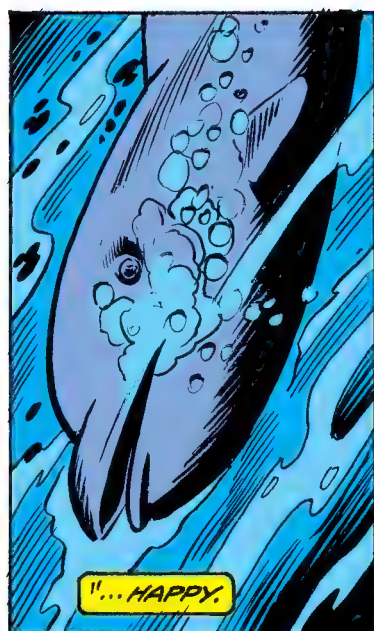


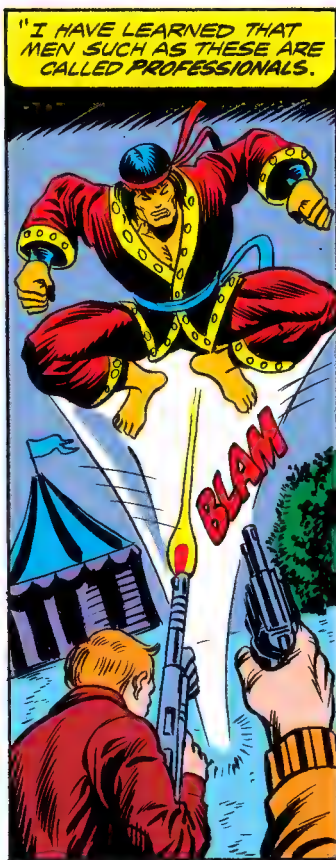
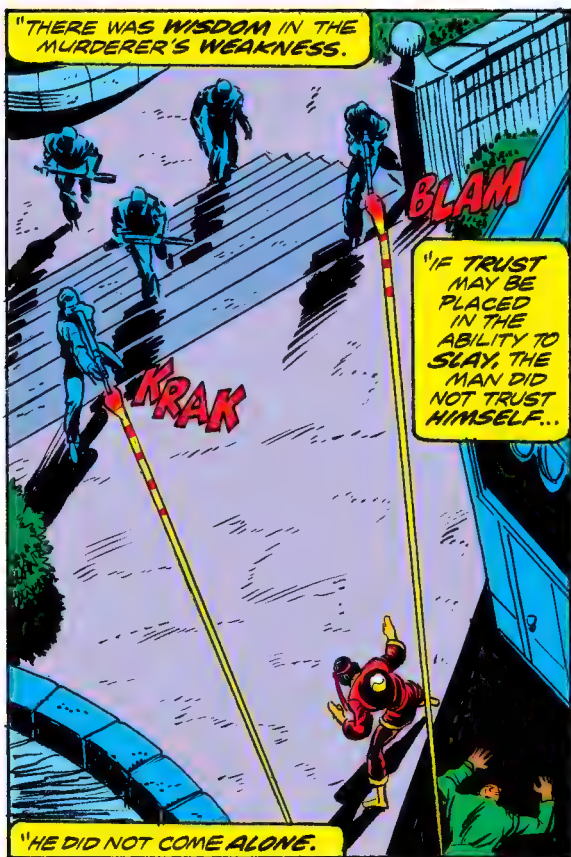
"... FOR CREATURES SUCH AS THIS DESERVE THE FREEDOM OF A REAL SEA..."



"... AS WELL AS FREEDOM FROM CONGREGATED EYES."







"IT SICKENS ME THAT
THIS HAND IS PAID TO
GRASP A GUN--



"-- AND THAT IT IS
MONEY, THERE-
FORE, WHICH
FORCES ME TO
GRASP A HAND...

"... AND FEEL THE
POISON OF HATE--

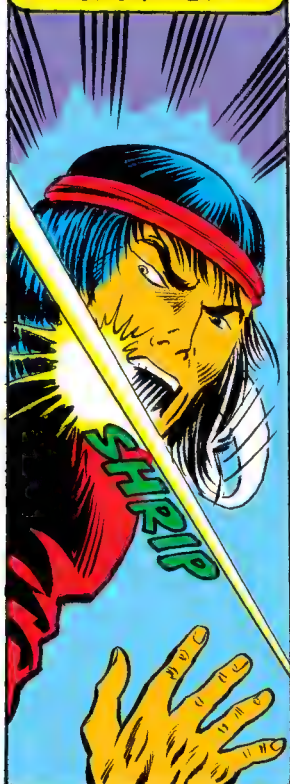


SPLUD



"-- AS I TURN MY HAND INTO A
WEAPON JUST AS LETHAL AS A GUN.

"BUT NOT AS FAR-
REACHING.



"THEY RUN FOR ME
NOW, THEIR FACES
SHOWING HATE THEY
DO NOT FEEL. I
HAVE NOT WRONGED
THEM...



"... BUT THE MONEY
THEY WILL RECEIVE
MAKES MY DEATH
RIGHT.

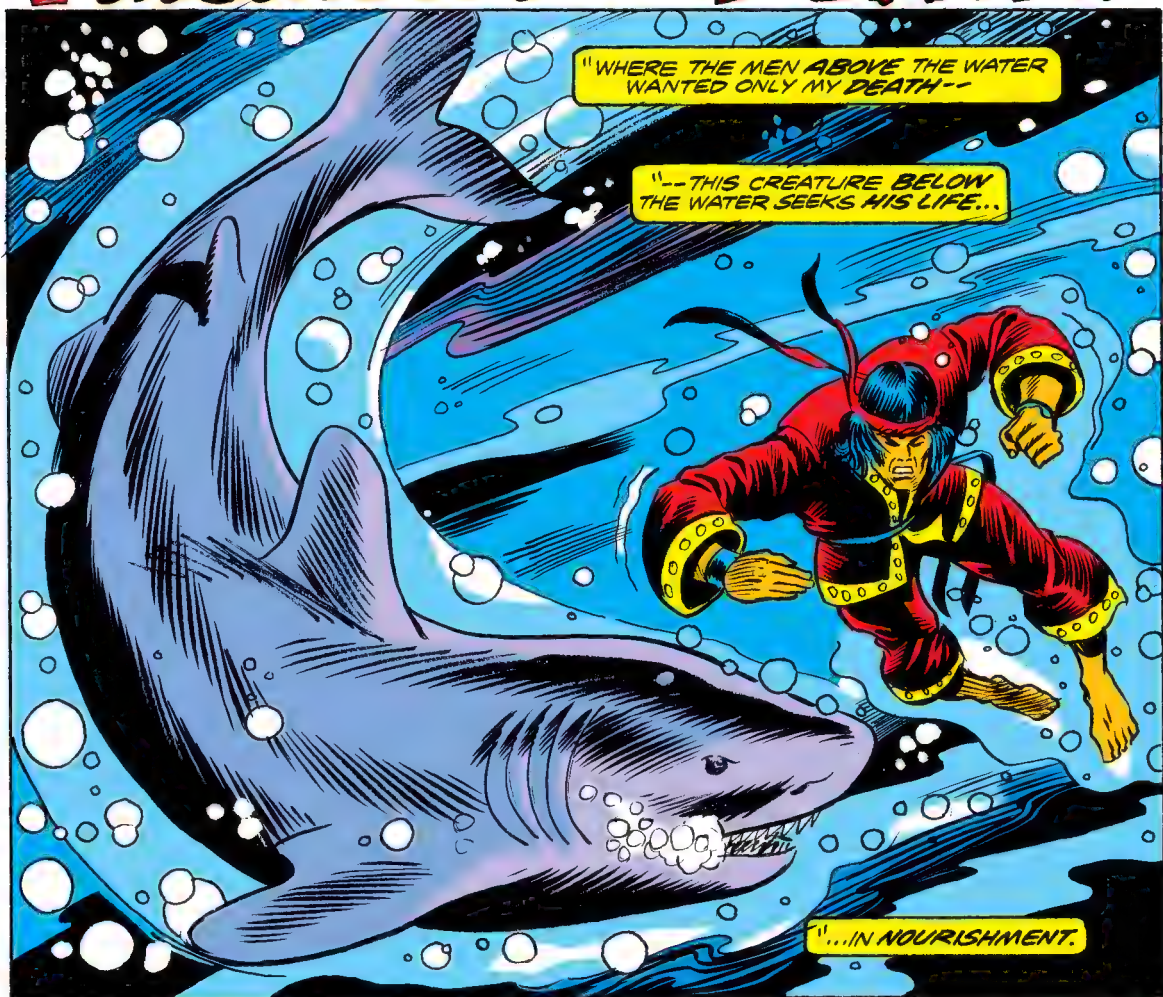
"... EVEN IF IT IS ONLY
INTO ANOTHER TRAP.

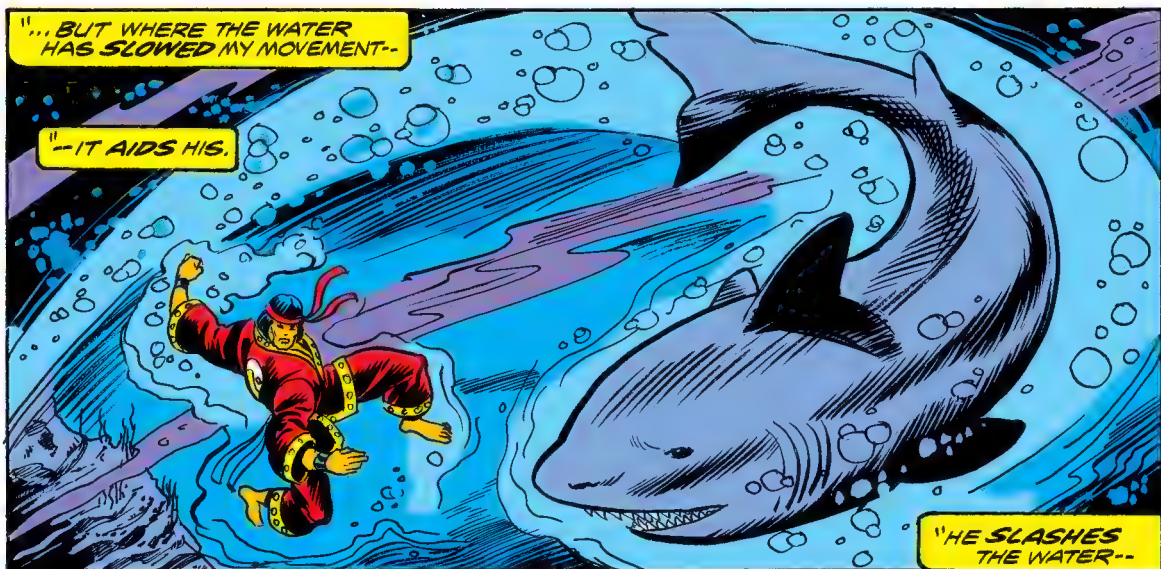


"I CANNOT
FIGHT SO
MANY MEN
OF SUCH
LITTLE
FEELING.
I MUST
ESCAPE...



PART 2 MOMENT OF DEATH!

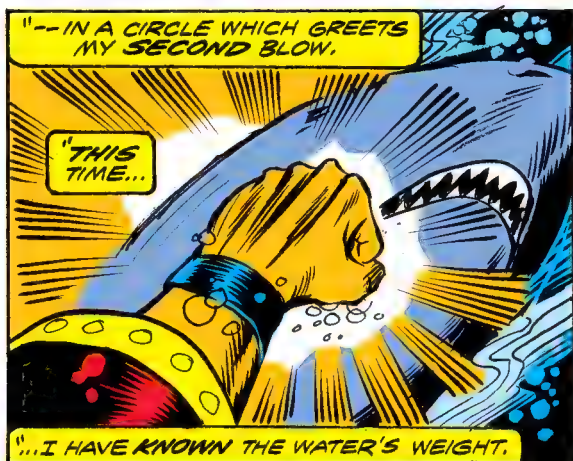




"... BUT WHERE THE WATER
HAS SLOWED MY MOVEMENT--

"--IT AIDS HIS.

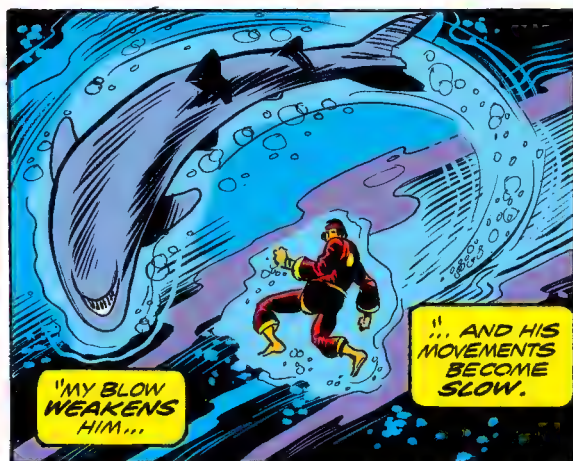
"HE SLASHES
THE WATER--



"-- IN A CIRCLE WHICH GREET'S
MY SECOND BLOW.

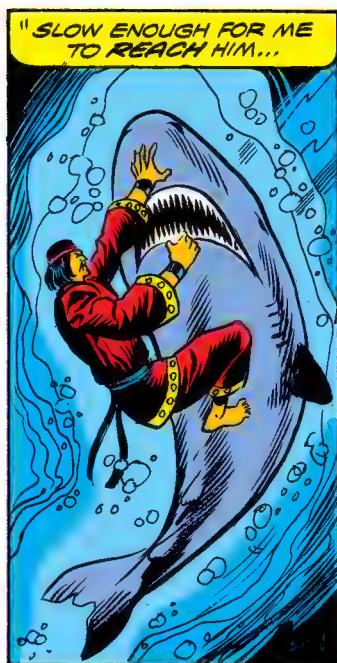
"THIS
TIME..."

"...I HAVE KNOWN THE WATER'S WEIGHT.

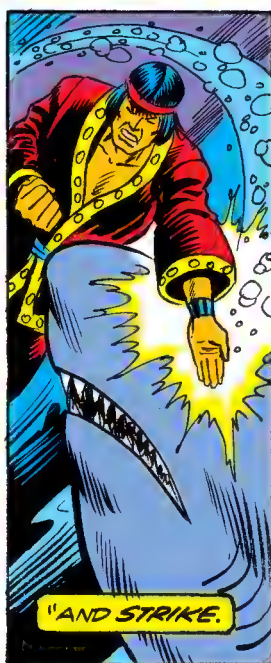


"MY BLOW
WEAKENS
HIM..."

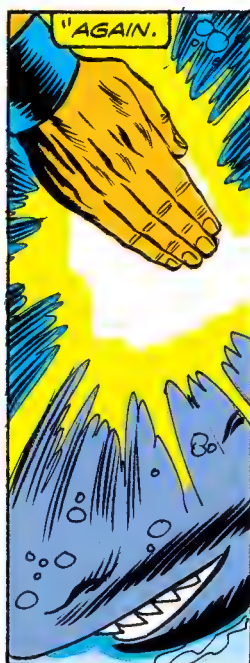
"... AND HIS
MOVEMENTS
BECOME
SLOW."



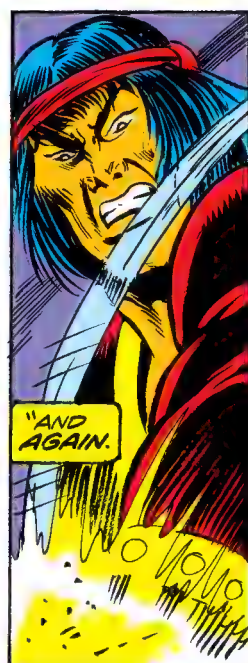
"SLOW ENOUGH FOR ME
TO REACH HIM..."



"AND STRIKE.



"AGAIN.



"AND
AGAIN."



"AND WITH MY FINAL THRUST I AM AWARE OF BREATH..."



"...AND THE SWIFT NECESSITY OF IT."

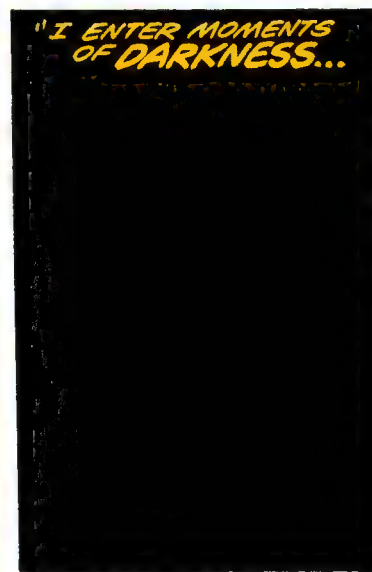
"THE CREATURE IS STUNNED. HE WILL NOT PURSUE ME."



"I BREAK THE SURFACE TO RECEIVE AIR--"



"-- AND WAITING VIOLENCE."



"I ENTER MOMENTS OF DARKNESS..."



"... AND DREAM OF A JOURNEY ACROSS ROUGH CONCRETE."

ALMOST THOUGHT THE STUPID PUNK HAD DROWNED HIMSELF.

GOOD THING HE DIDN'T... SINCE MARSTON 'LL PAY DOUBLE FOR HIM ALIVE.



"MY DREAMS SHRED..."

"... LIKE CLOUDS BEFORE THE WIND..."



"... AND I SEE THE FACE OF THE MAN WHO HAS TRIED TO SPONSOR--"

--YOUR DEATH, CHINAMAN, AND IT WON'T BE A PLEASANT ONE.

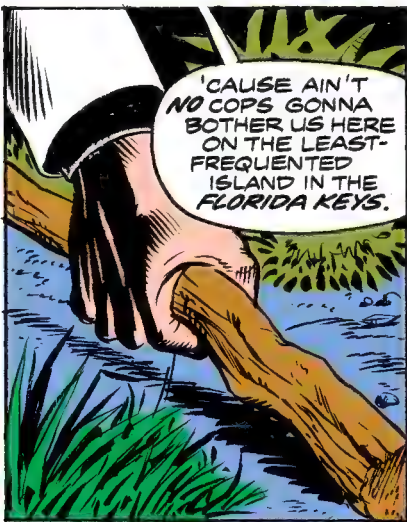
AT LEAST... NOT FOR YOU.



BUT ME... I'M GONNA TAKE GREAT PLEASURE FROM IT.

YOU MIGHT SAY I'M GONNA SAVOR IT... TAKE MY TIME WITH IT.

"I AM BOUND... SOMEWHERE NEAR THE OCEAN."



'CAUSE AIN'T NO COPS GONNA BOTHER US HERE ON THE LEAST-FREQUENTED ISLAND IN THE FLORIDA KEYS.



IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU--

-- THAT DIANA'S DEAD.



IT IS BECAUSE YOU PAID KORAIN TO KILL ME--

-- THAT THE GIRL IS DEAD.

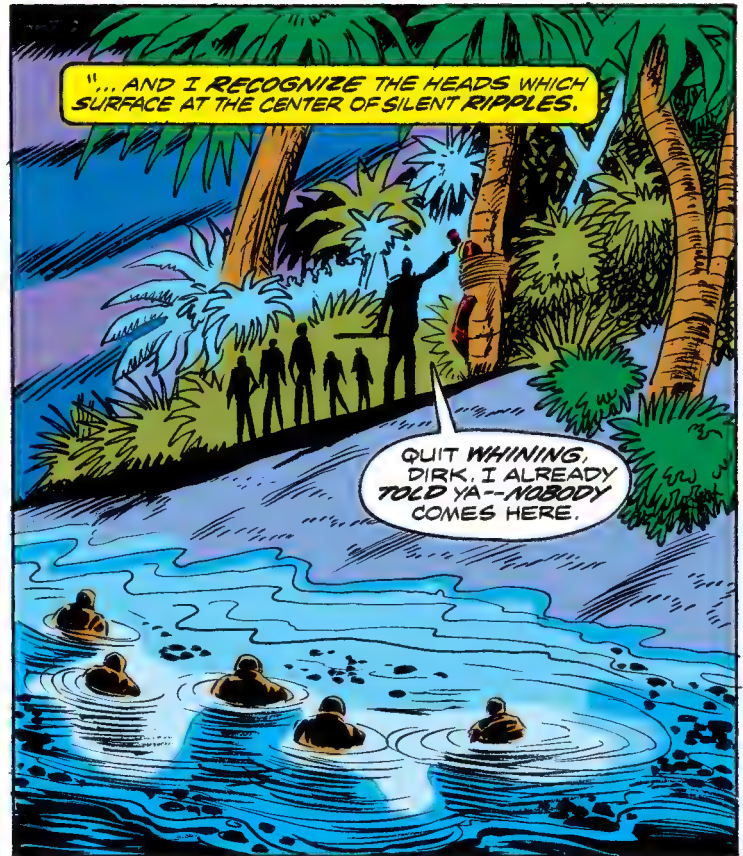


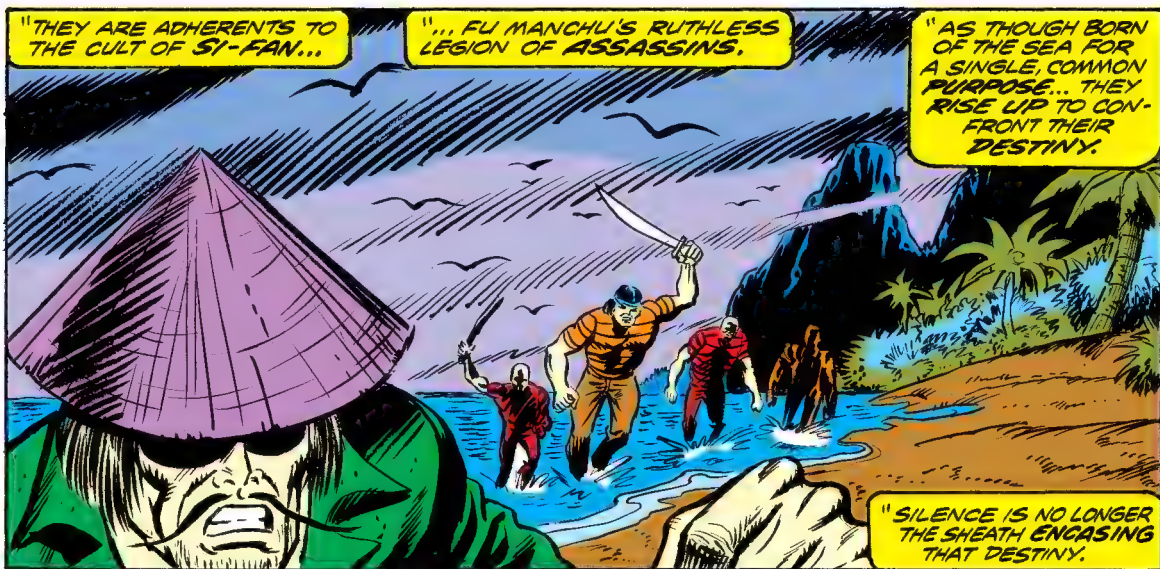
SHUT UP YOU ROTTEN LOUSY--



-- STINKIN' SCUM!

"ONCE AGAIN I KNOW PAIN..."





"THEY ARE ADHERENTS TO THE CULT OF SI-FAN..."

"... FU MANCHU'S RUTHLESS LEGION OF ASSASSINS."

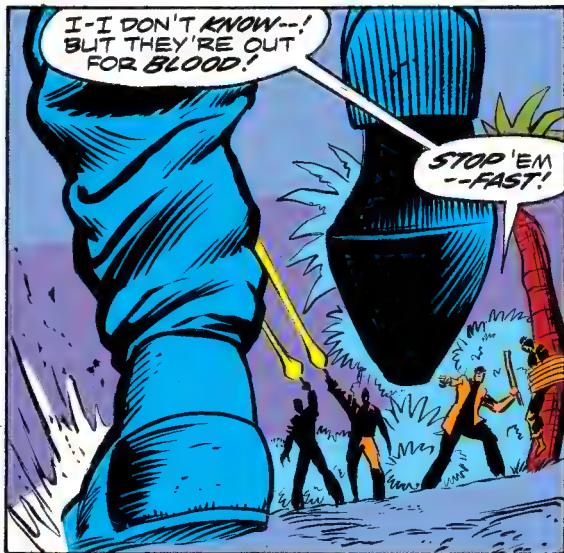
"AS THOUGH BORN OF THE SEA FOR A SINGLE, COMMON PURPOSE... THEY RISE UP TO CONFRONT THEIR DESTINY."

"SILENCE IS NO LONGER THE SHEATH ENCASING THAT DESTINY."



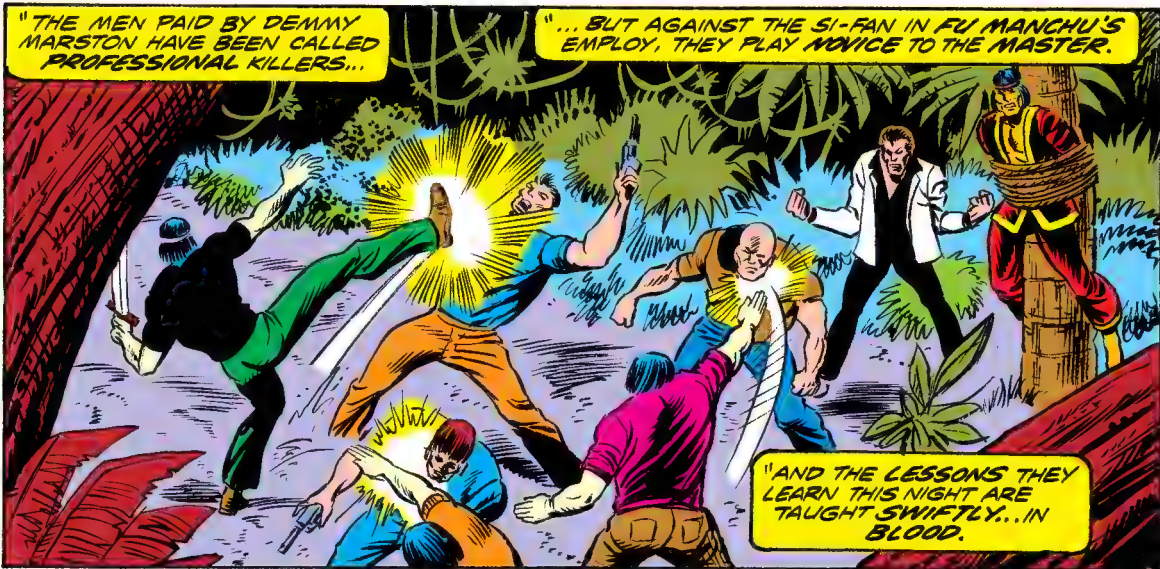
"MY CAPTORS ARE THEREFORE AWARE OF THEM."

DEMME-- WHO ARE THESE GUYS? WHAT'S GOIN' ON?



I-I DON'T KNOW--! BUT THEY'RE OUT FOR BLOOD!

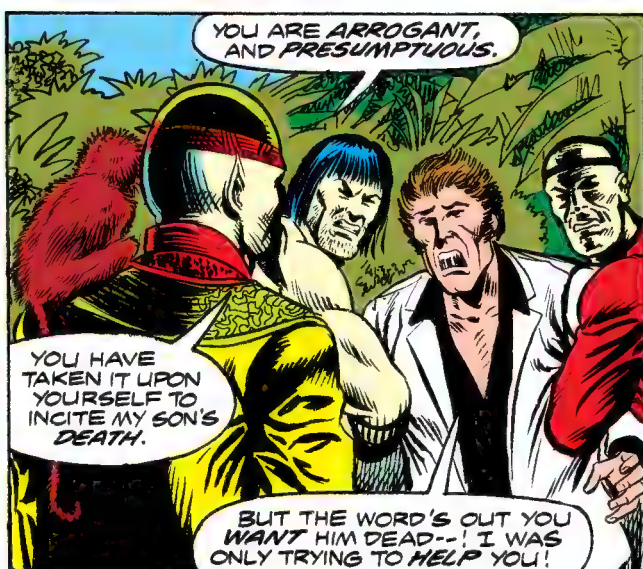
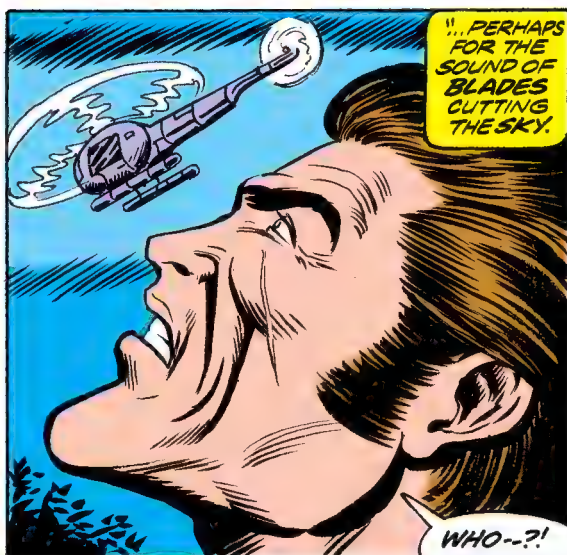
STOP 'EM --FAST!

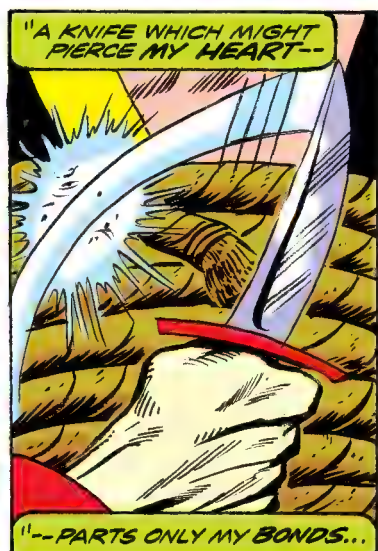
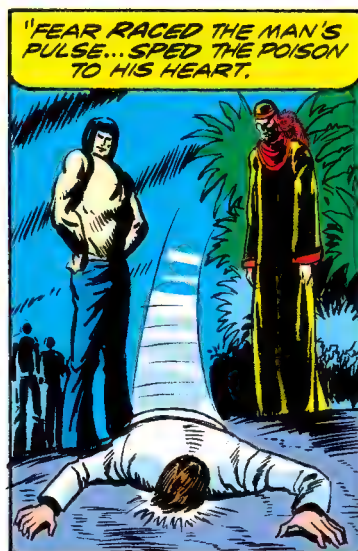


"THE MEN PAID BY DEMME MARSTON HAVE BEEN CALLED PROFESSIONAL KILLERS..."

"... BUT AGAINST THE SI-FAN IN FU MANCHU'S EMPLOY, THEY PLAY NOVICE TO THE MASTER."

"AND THE LESSONS THEY LEARN THIS NIGHT ARE TAUGHT SWIFTLY...IN BLOOD."





GIANT-SIZE MASTER
OF KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



1 SEPT
02927

50¢

CC

68 BIG PAGES

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU™



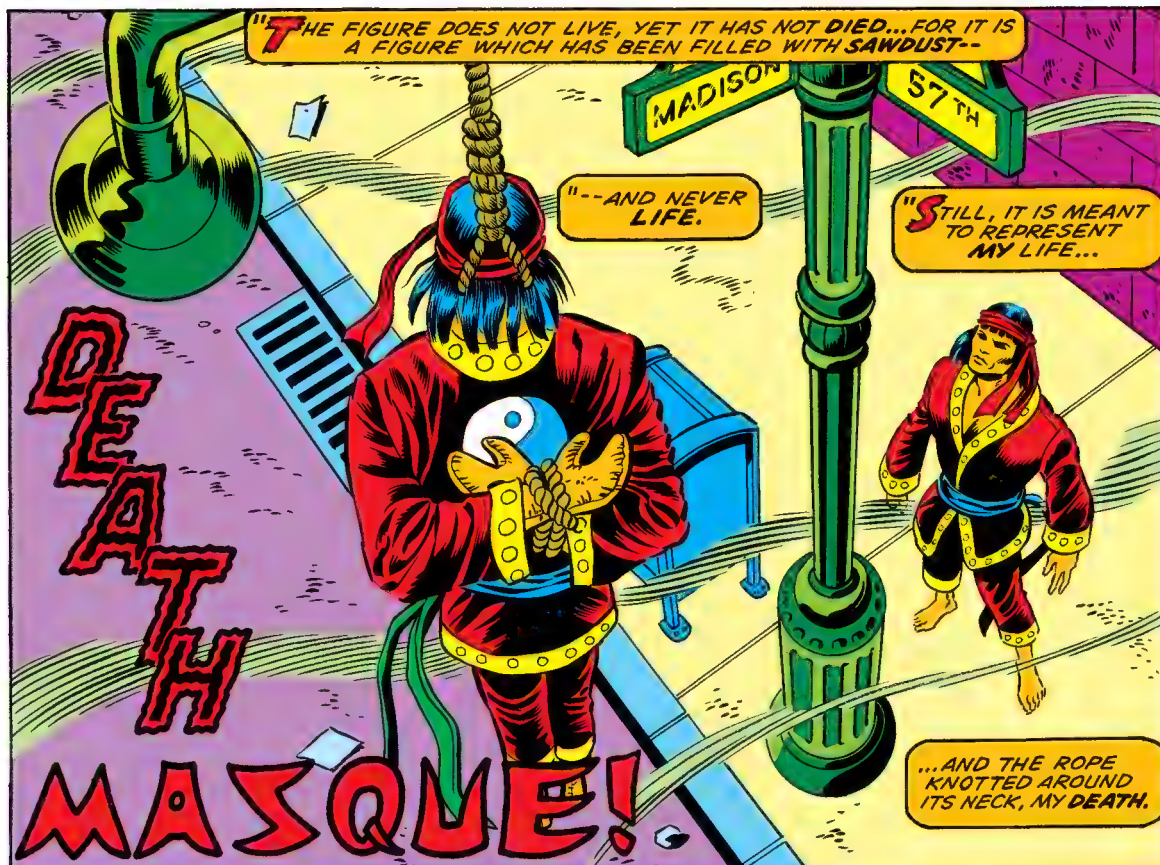
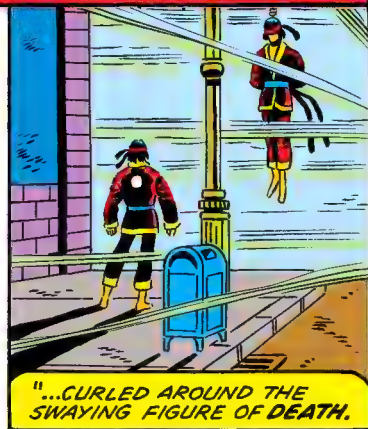
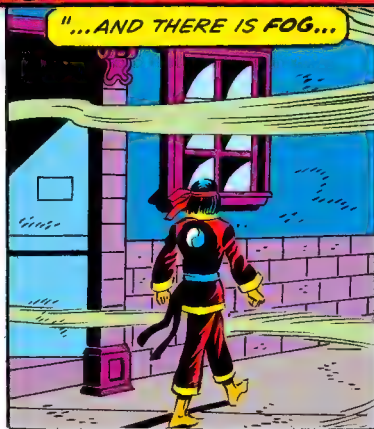
5 ALL-NEW
STEEL-SMASHING SAGAS
STARRING THE ONE
AND ONLY
SHANG-CHI!

BIGGEST
MARTIAL
ARTS
ACTION
ISSUE
EVER!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™



DOUG MOENCH
WORDS

PAUL GULACY & DAN ADKINS
PICTURES

P. GOLDBERG
COLORS

ARTIE SIMEK
LETTERS

ROY THOMAS
GUIDANCE



"A
SOUND--



"--LIKE THE
HISS OF A
SERPENT--



"--BEFORE STRIKING.



"THE PARCHMENT--

"--AROUND
THE
DAGGER'S
HILT...



"...TELLS ME WITHOUT
WORDS...

...KNEW THAT I WOULD
EVADE THE DAGGER'S
POINT...

"...THAT THE ONE
WHO GUIDED ITS
HISSING PATH--

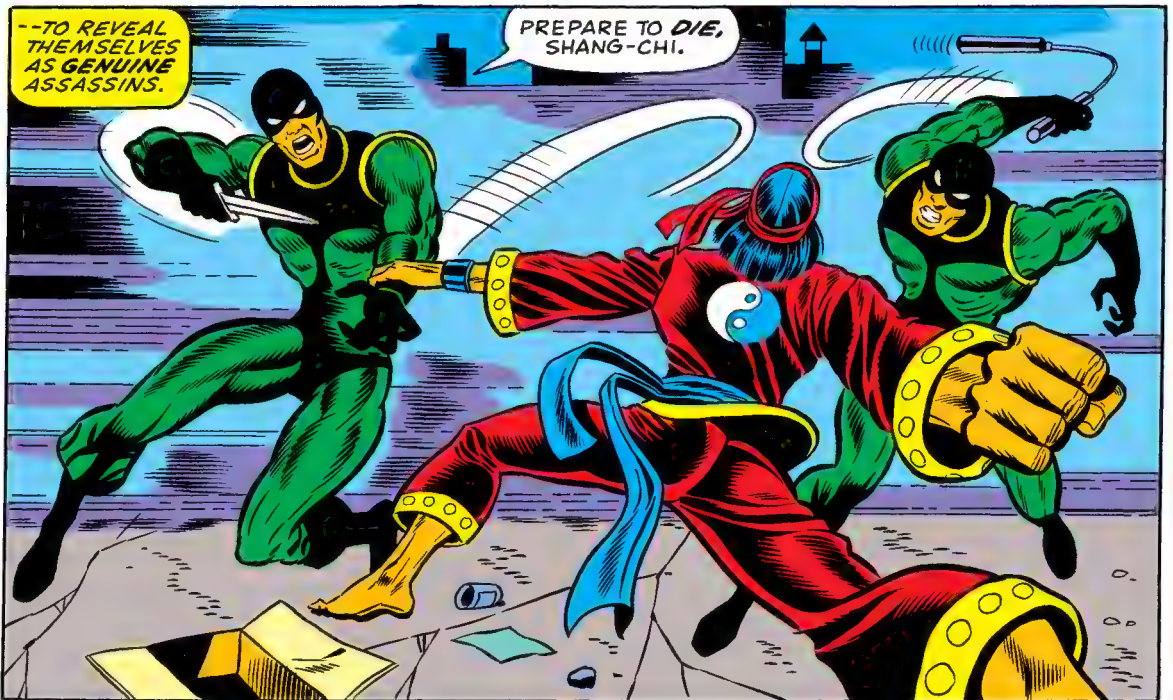
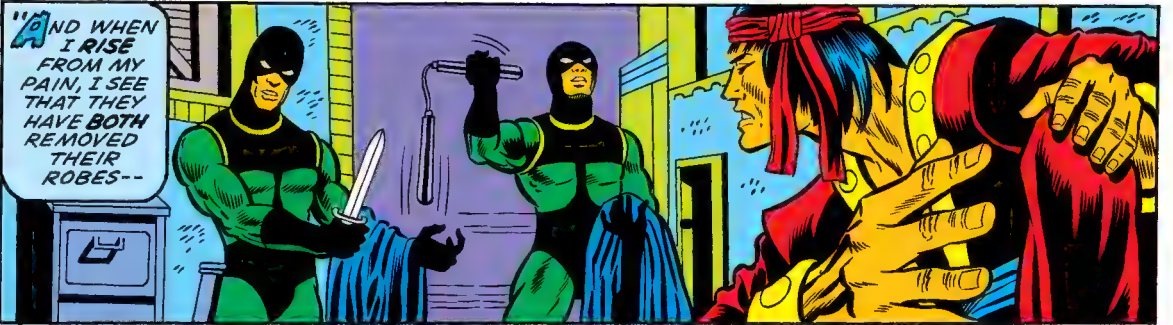
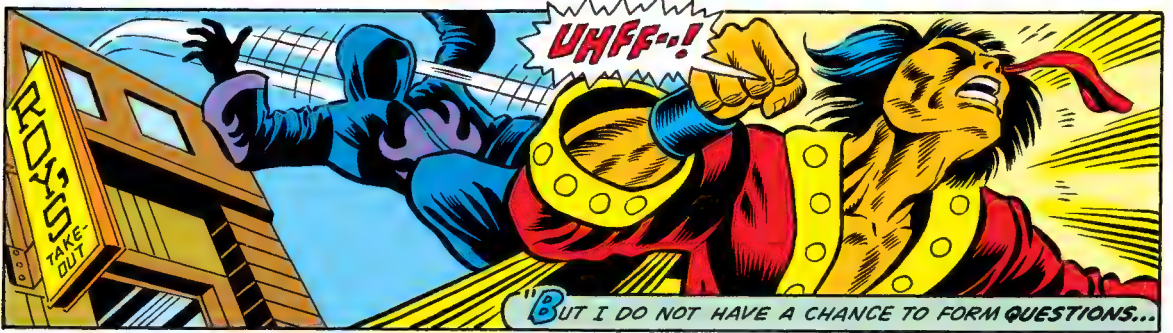
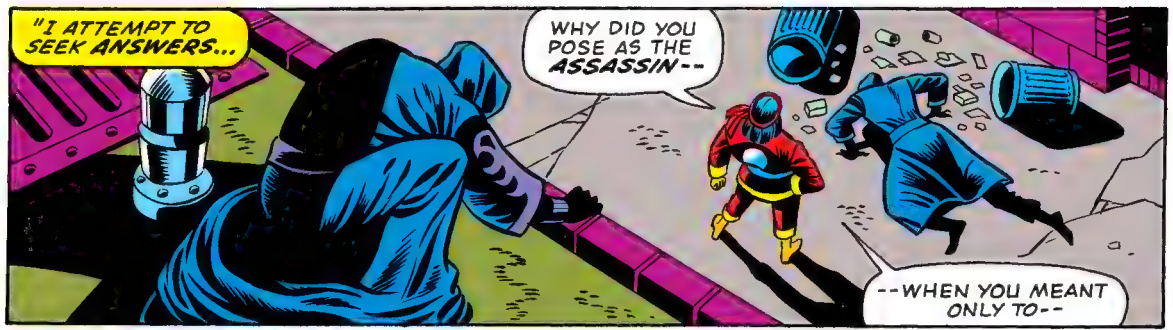
"...AND LIVE TO READ THE
PARCHMENT'S WORDS.

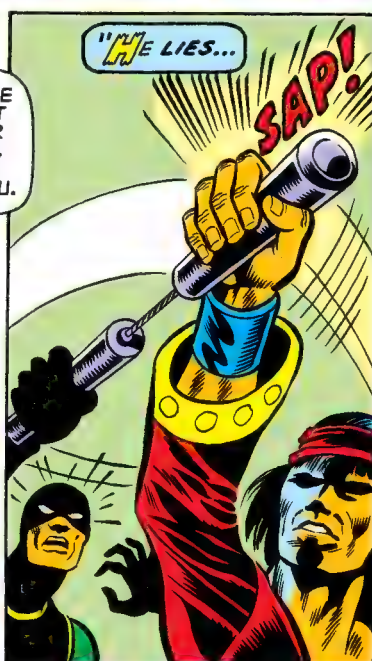
"BUT MY FIRST COMMUNICATION
WITH THE PARCHMENT'S
MESSENGER--

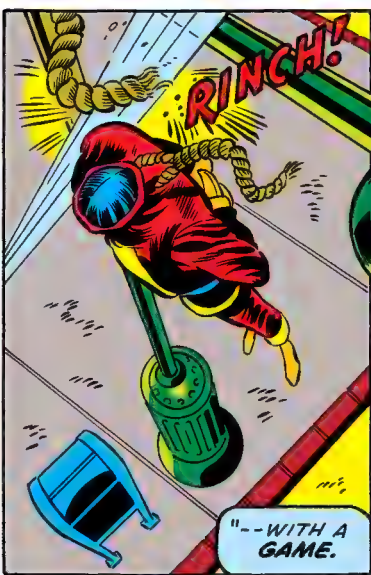


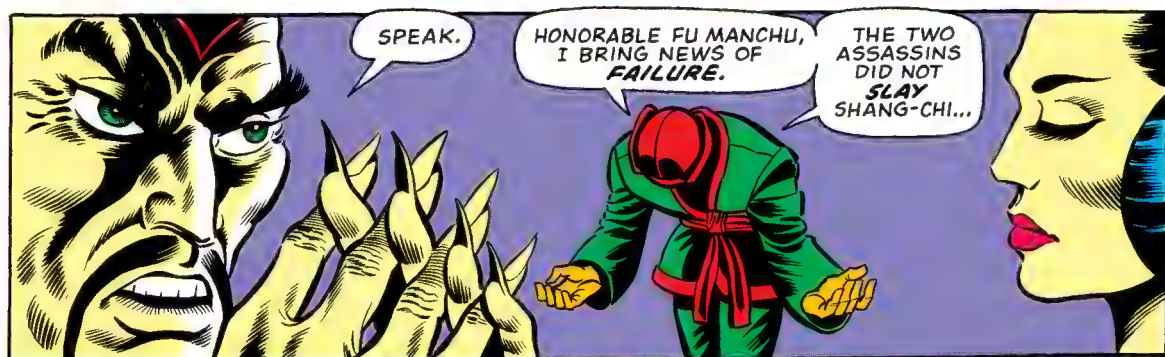
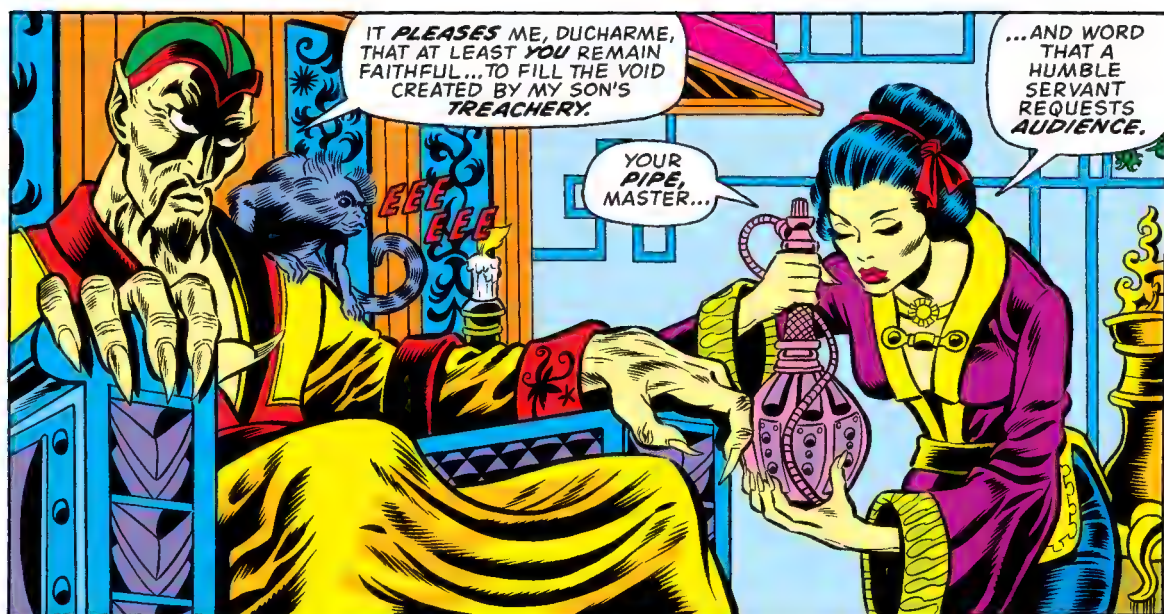
"--WOULD BE OF A MORE
DIRECT NATURE.

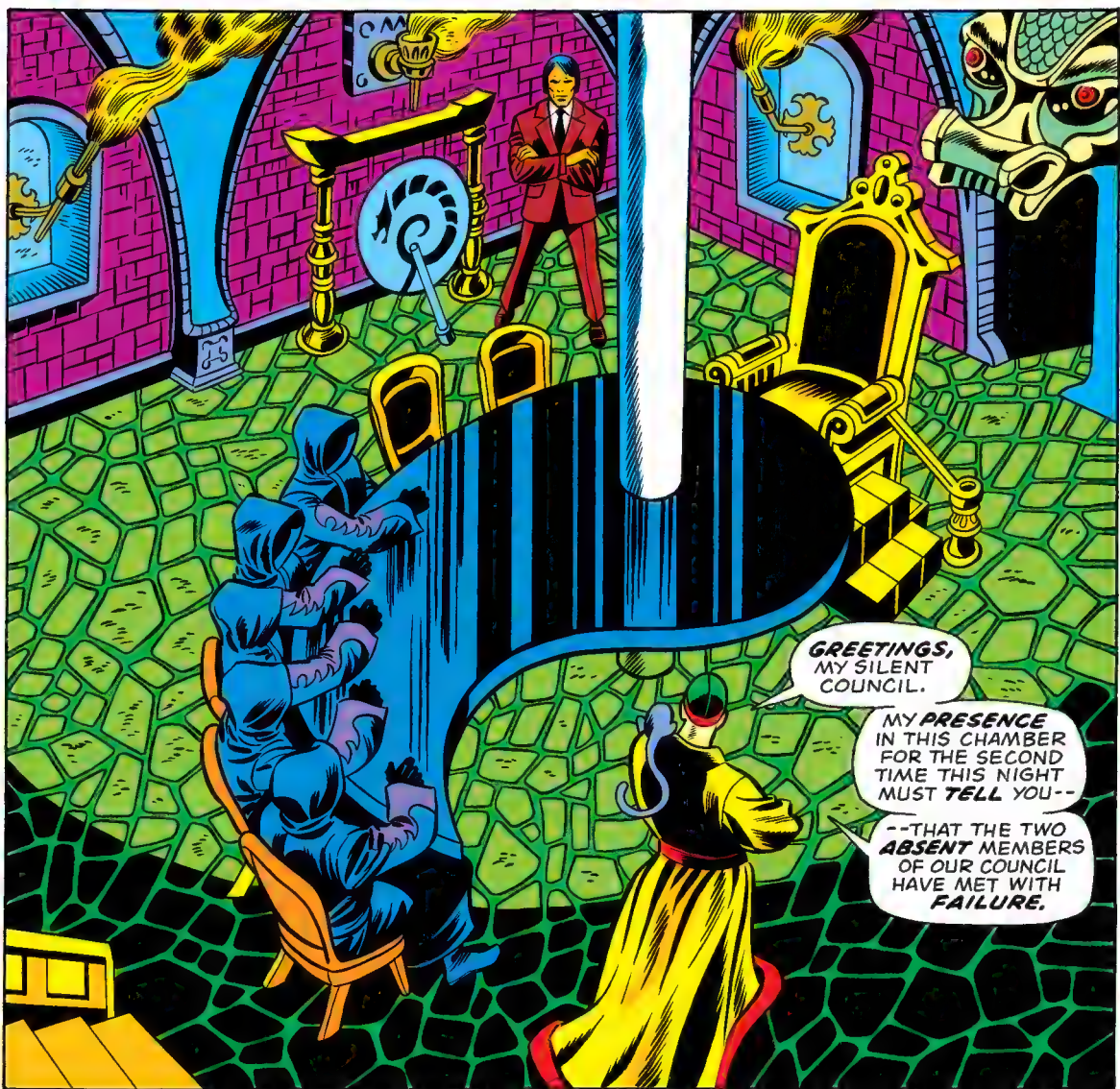
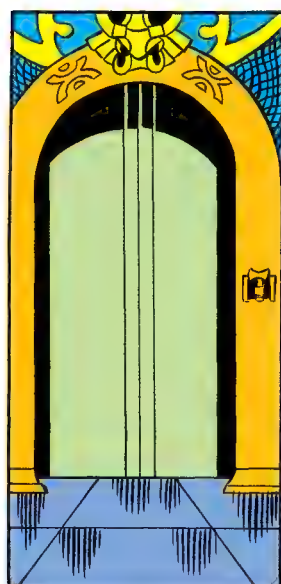


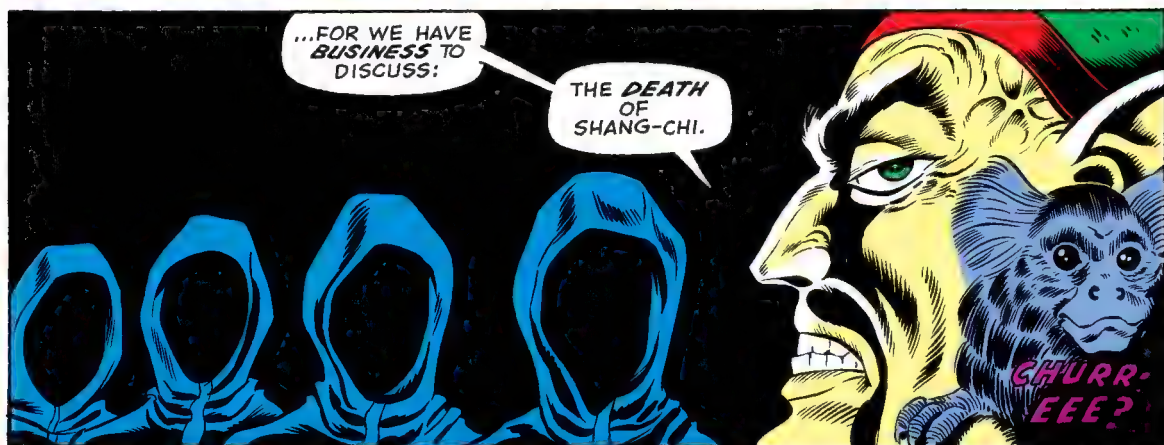












PART TWO / THE ENEMY WITHIN!

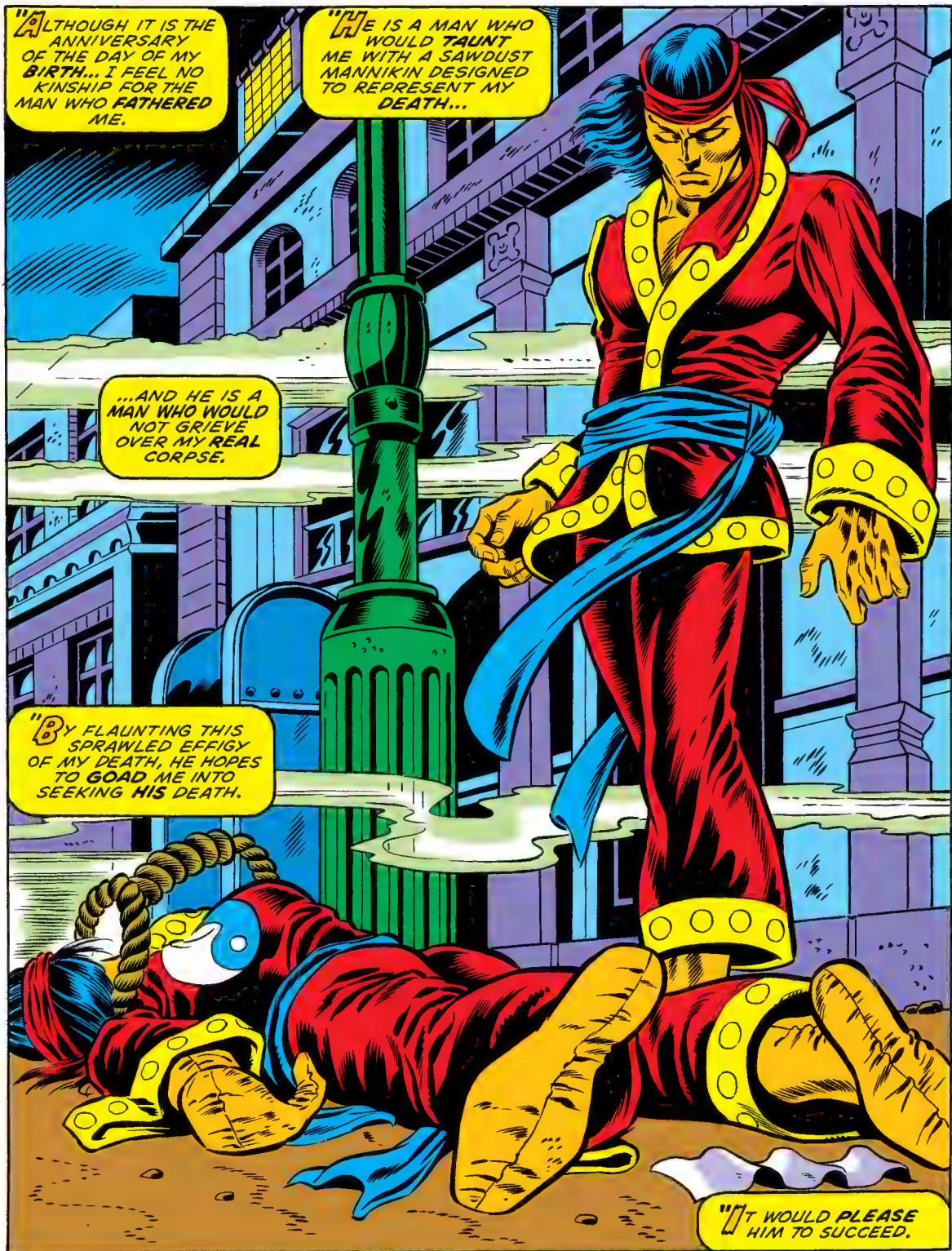
"ALTHOUGH IT IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY OF MY BIRTH... I FEEL NO KINSHIP FOR THE MAN WHO FATHERED ME.

"HE IS A MAN WHO WOULD TAUNT ME WITH A SAWDUST MANNIKIN DESIGNED TO REPRESENT MY DEATH...

...AND HE IS A MAN WHO WOULD NOT GRIEVE OVER MY REAL CORPSE.

"BY FLAUNTING THIS SPRAWLED EFFIGY OF MY DEATH, HE HOPES TO GOAD ME INTO SEEKING HIS DEATH.

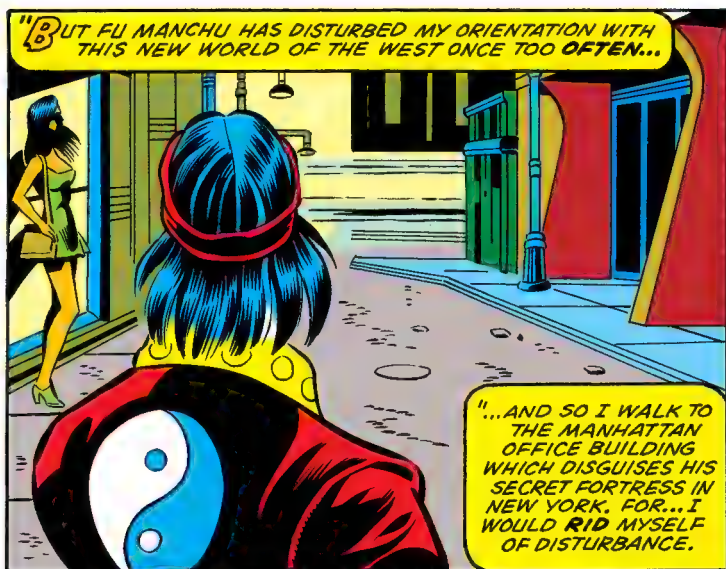
"IT WOULD PLEASE HIM TO SUCCEED.





"IT IS INNER WEAKNESS--

"--WHICH
COMPELS
ME TO
PLEASE
MY
FATHER.



"BUT FU MANCHU HAS DISTURBED MY ORIENTATION WITH
THIS NEW WORLD OF THE WEST ONCE TOO OFTEN...

"...AND SO I WALK TO
THE MANHATTAN
OFFICE BUILDING
WHICH DISGUISES HIS
SECRET FORTRESS IN
NEW YORK. FOR... I
WOULD RID MYSELF
OF DISTURBANCE.



"STANDING
IN THE
SHADOWS--
A GIRL.
COULD
SHE...?"

"No."

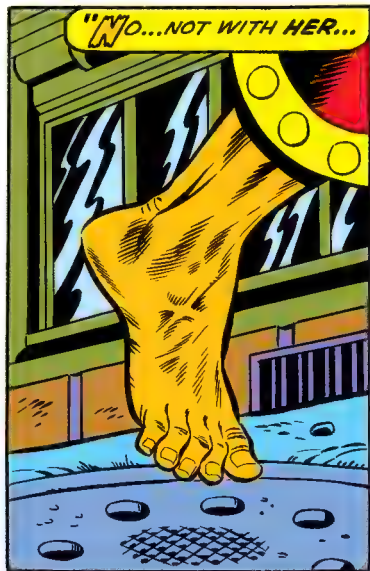
"SHE WAITS HERE FOR
ANOTHER PURPOSE..."



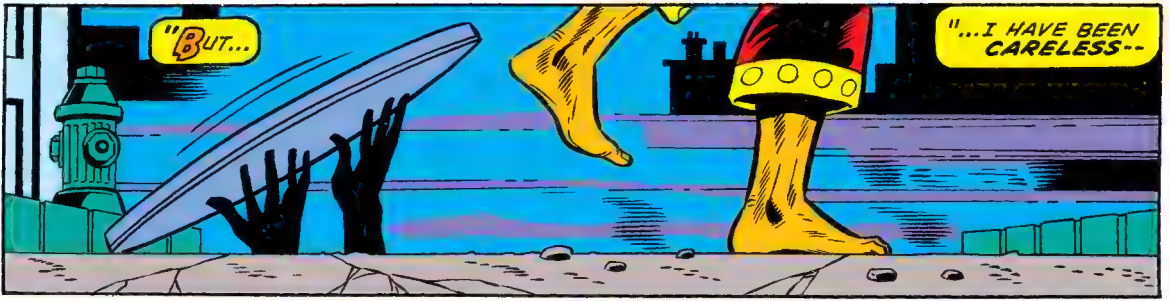
"...AND ON
BUSINESS
OF HER
OWN.



"I NEED NOT CONCERN MY-
SELF WITH HER AS I CROSS
THE STREET TO MY FATHER'S
HEADQUARTERS.

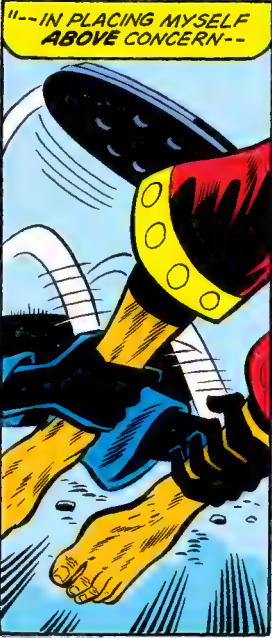


"No...NOT WITH HER..."

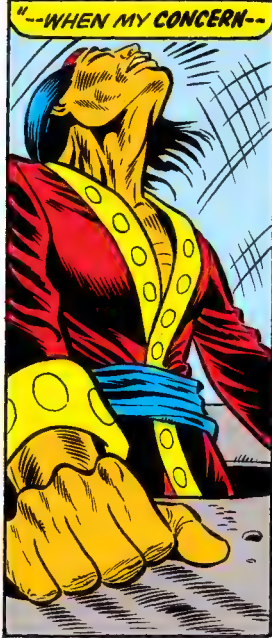


"BUT...

"...I HAVE BEEN CARELESS--



"--IN PLACING MYSELF ABOVE CONCERN--



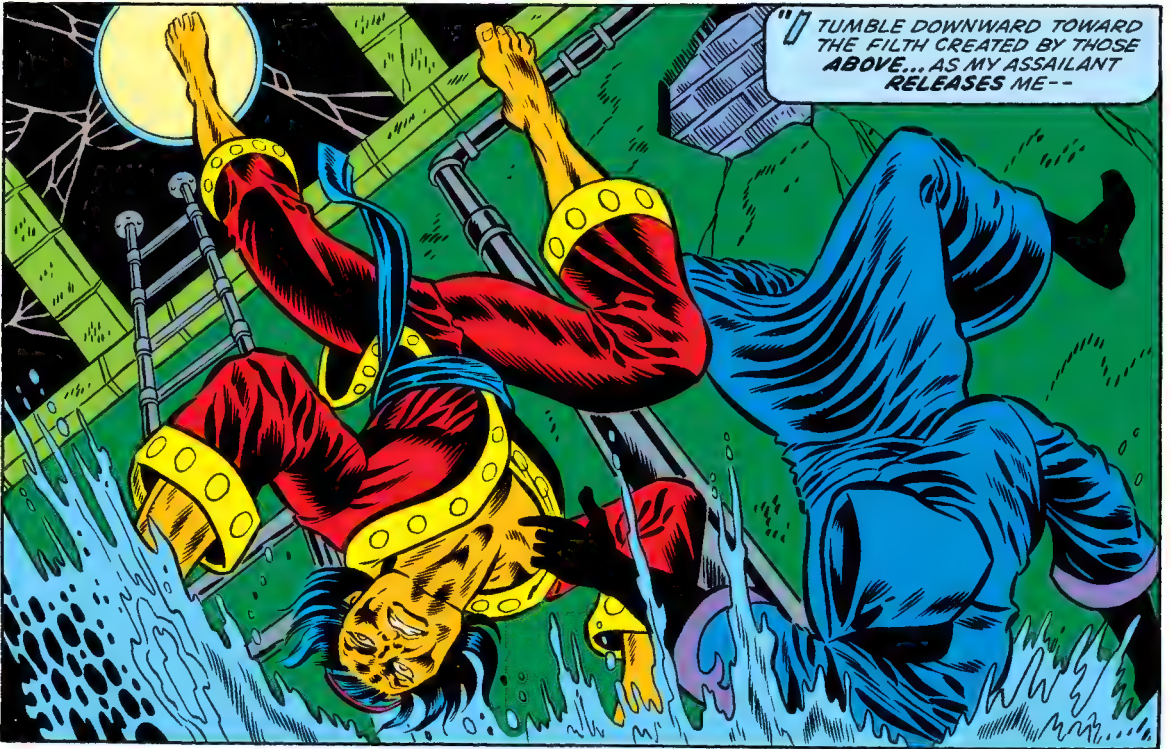
"--WHEN MY CONCERN--



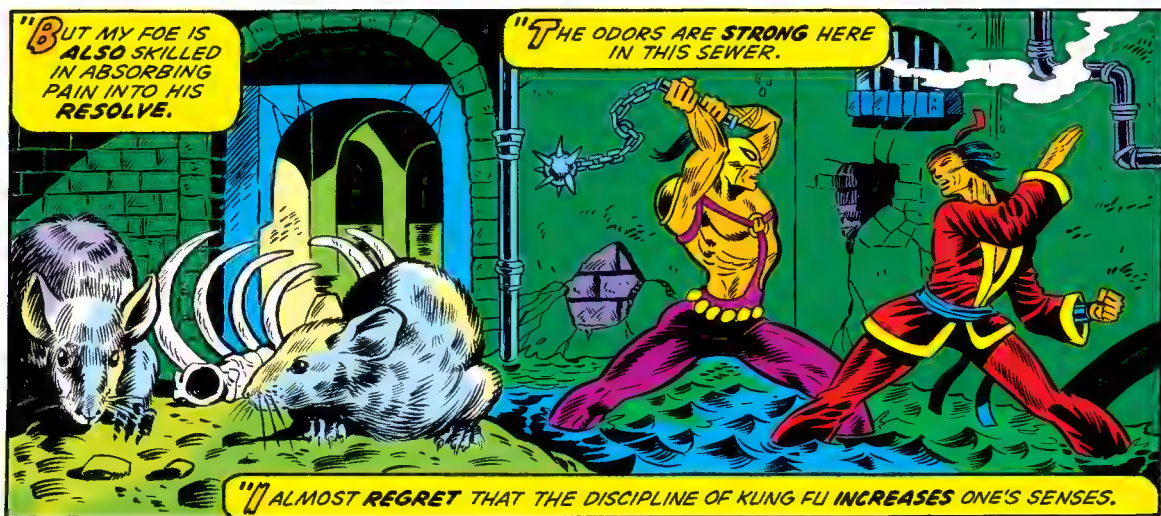
"--SHOULD HAVE BEEN PLACED--

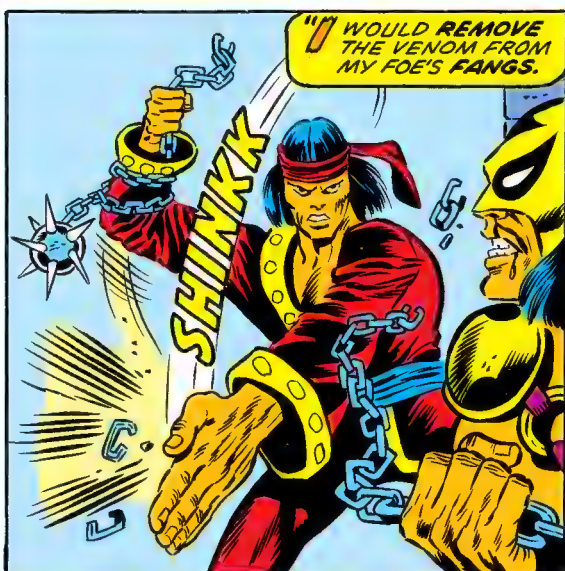
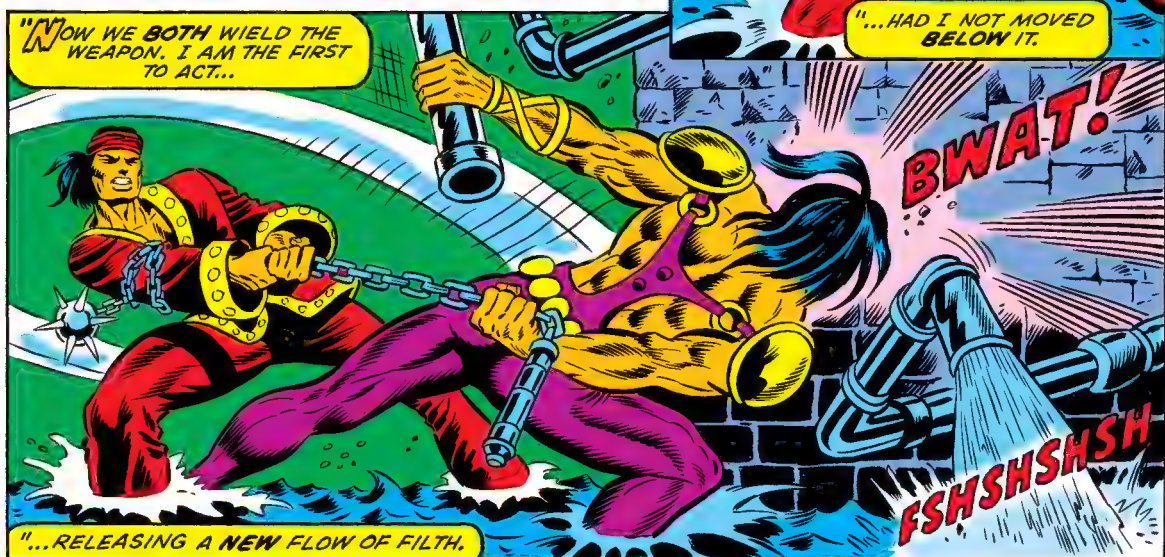


"--BELOW.



"I TUMBLE DOWNWARD TOWARD THE FILTH CREATED BY THOSE ABOVE... AS MY ASSAILANT RELEASES ME--



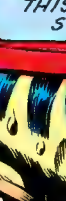


"CLEARLY, HIS PURPOSE IS TO PROLONG OUR COMBAT..."



"...UNTO MY DEATH."

"**B**UT I WILL WALLOW
IN THE SCUM OF
THIS DRAINAGE
SYSTEM--



Panel 1: A character in a red robe with a chain around his waist is being kicked by a character in a purple robe. The character in red is shouting "BAFT!" and the character in purple is shouting "PULL HIM INTO MY KICK..."

"... AND AS HE SLIPS INTO THE LAPPING FILTH, **DEATH** HISSES FROM HIS MOUTH TO BLEACH THE DANK AIR.



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THE ONE I EARLIER SUSPECTED--

"--NOW EMBRACES ME WITH CONCERN.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

I WALK DOWN THIS STREET **EVERY NIGHT--** BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A MANHOLE FLY OPEN AND **SWALLOW** A PERSON--!



"THEN...A SOUND, LIKE HER BREATHING, BUT WITHOUT THE PULSE OF LIFE...A STEADY DISTURBANCE OF AIR--

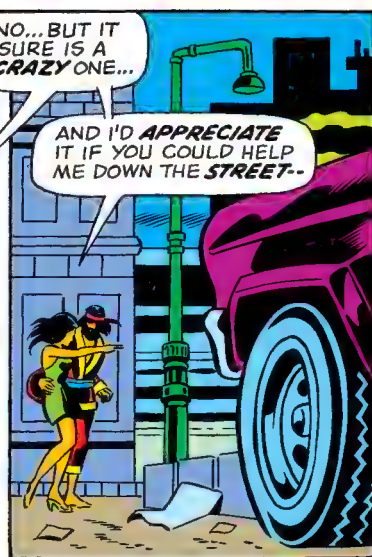
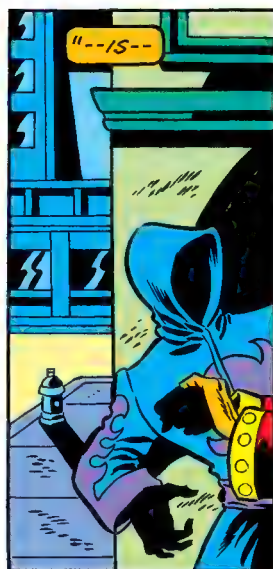
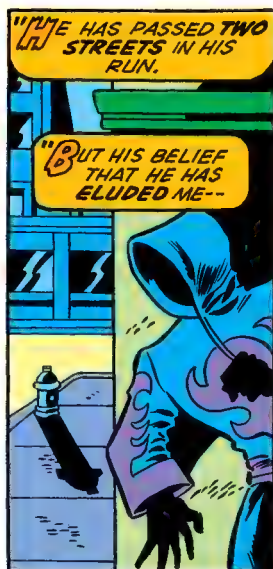
"--WHICH WOULD BRING DEATH.

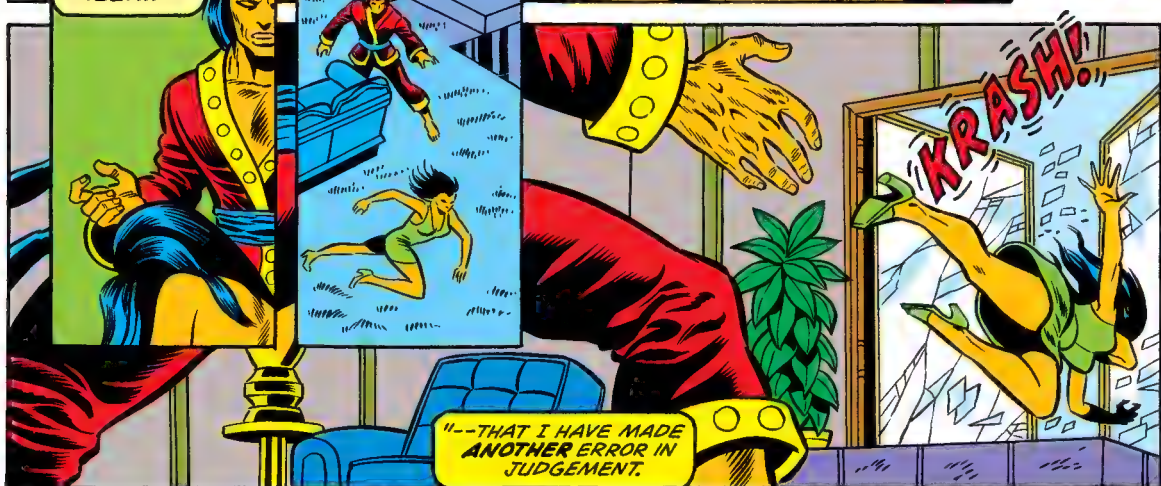
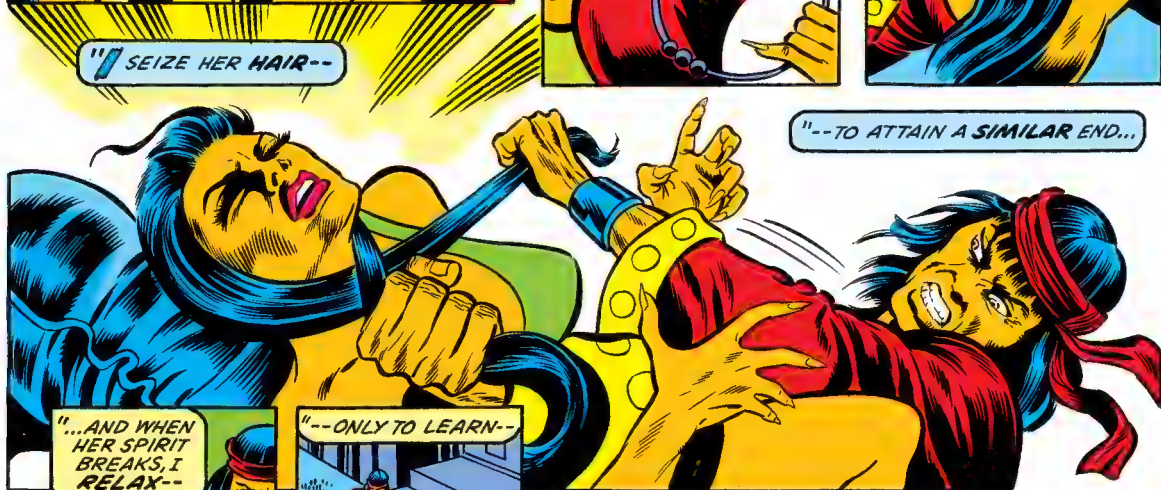
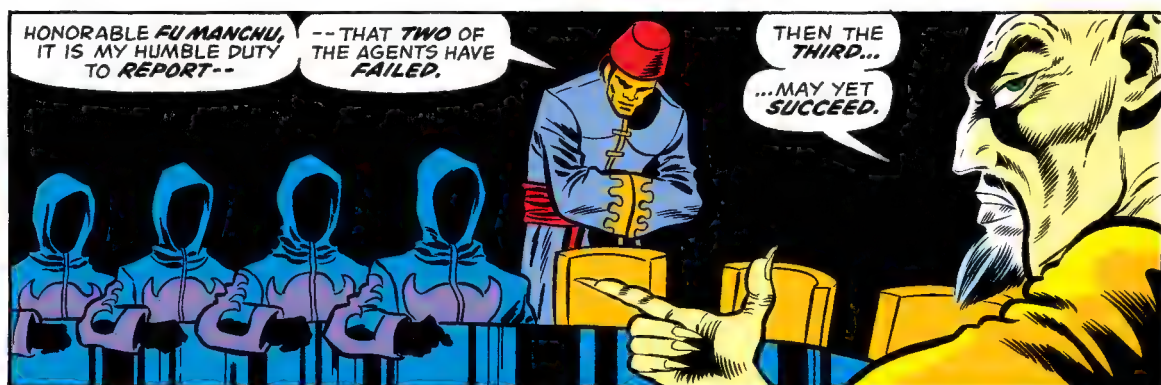
CHIK!

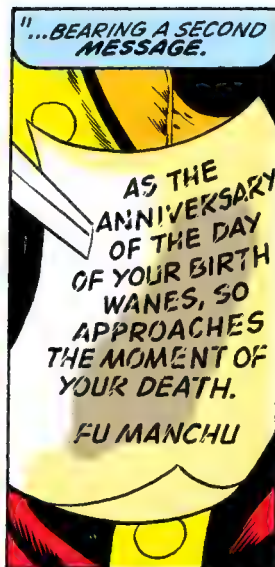
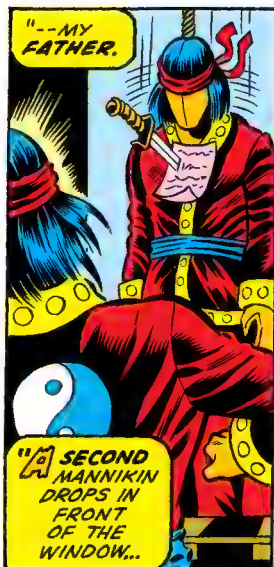
MY LEG--

"SPIN TO THE SOURCE OF THE STAR--

**"SPIN TO THE SOURCE
OF THE STAR--**







"THE VESTIBULE IS A HALLWAY DECORATED IN THE MOTIF OF THE WESTERN WORLD--

"--AND WOULD SEEM--TO THE PULLED EYE--TO LEAD TO OFFICES DECORATED IN A SIMILAR MANNER.



"BUT TO ONE WHO MAY DISCERN A CRACK AT THE VESTIBULE'S END--

"--IT LEADS TO A VAST HALL STYLED IN THE BEAUTY OF OLD CHINA...

"...BEAUTY PROFANED BY THE DESIGNS OF MY FATHER...

"...AND CAREFULLY SHIELDED FROM THE EYES OF THOSE WHO FREQUENT ITS WESTERN FACADE.

CHANK!

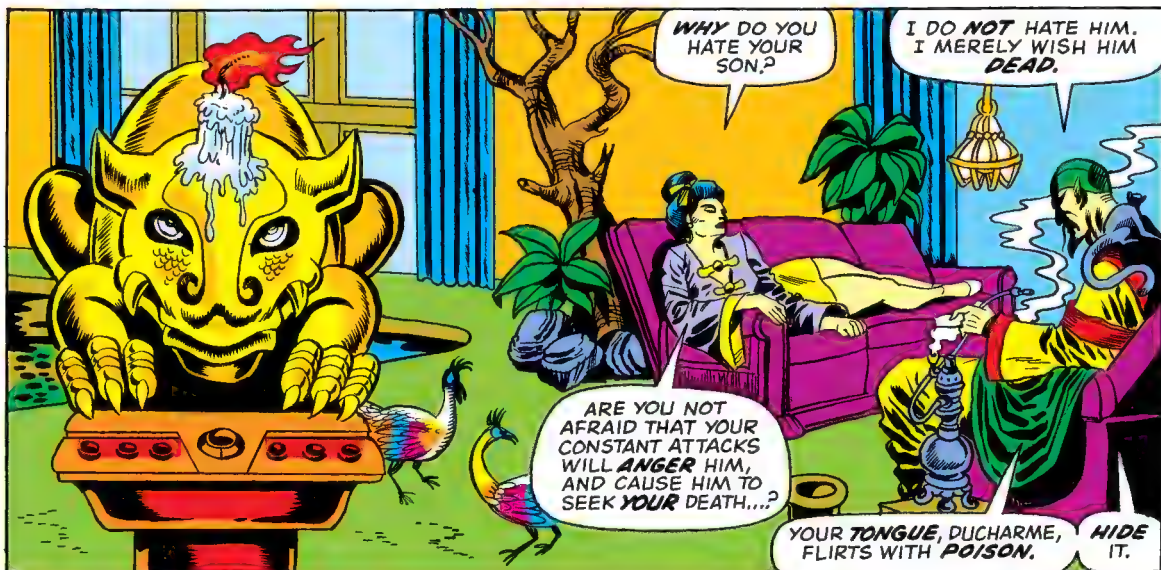


"I CLIMB TO THE ORNATE BALCONY...

"...AND THE STONE BALUSTRADE IS COOL BENEATH MY TOUCH.

"SO, TOO, IS MY SOUL CHILLED BY WHAT I HAVE COME HERE TO PERFORM.





"STEALTH IS AT MY SIDE AS I LEAN FROM THE BALCONY OVER THE MAIN HALL. THEY ARE SEVEN, ATTIRED IN THE SAME ROBES I HAVE SEEN ELSEWHERE THIS NIGHT.



"THESE ARE THE SAME SEVEN OF WHOM MY FATHER OFTEN SPOKE... AND YET THEY ARE ALL DIFFERENT... FOR THEY ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE SECRET SOCIETY CALLED THE COUNCIL OF THE SEVEN, AND LIKE BLADES OF GRASS-- OR HORDES OF VERMIN-- ONE RISES TO FILL THE GAP LEFT BY ANOTHER.

"THEY ARE FU MANCHU'S PERSONAL RETINUE OF ASSASSINS, AND WHEN ONE FAILS ANOTHER RISES TO TAKE UP THE TASK...

"MY FATHER WAS PROUD OF THESE EVER-CHANGING SEVEN, AND TRAINED ME TO BE THEIR EQUAL. HAD I NOT SLAIN DR. PETRIE,* I MIGHT NOW WALK IN THEIR RANKS...



*SEE SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #15. -- ROY.

YOU WILL ENTER THE COUNCIL CHAMBER THROUGH THE DRAGON'S MOUTH.



"...AND THIS FACT GIVES BIRTH TO A PLAN.



ENTER, MY COUNCIL OF SEVEN...



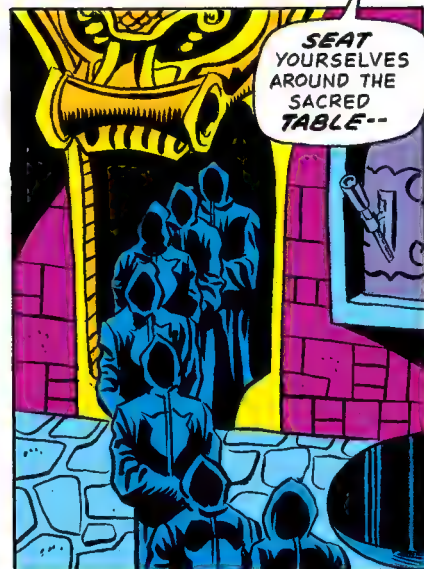
ENTER--



-- IN DARKNESS --



-- NOW.



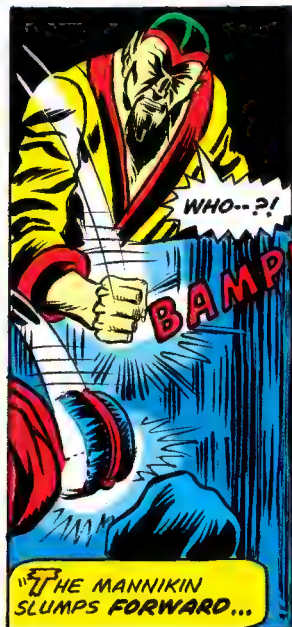
SEAT YOURSELVES AROUND THE SACRED TABLE--

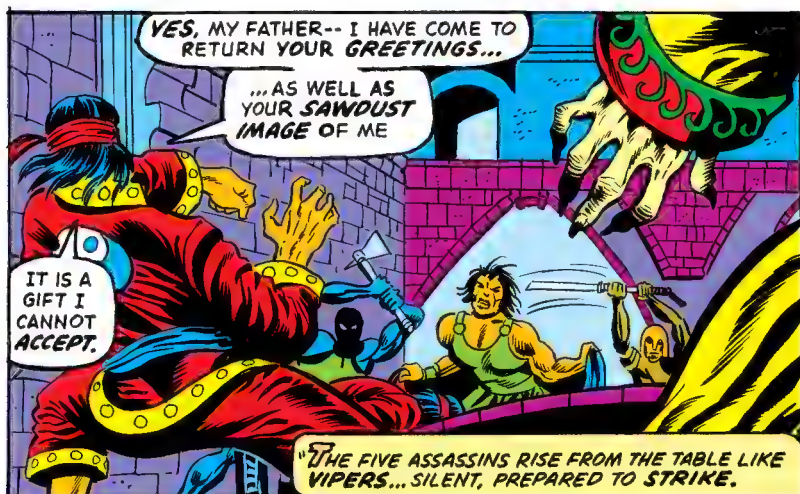


-- AND LET THE CHAMBER BE FILLED WITH LIGHT...

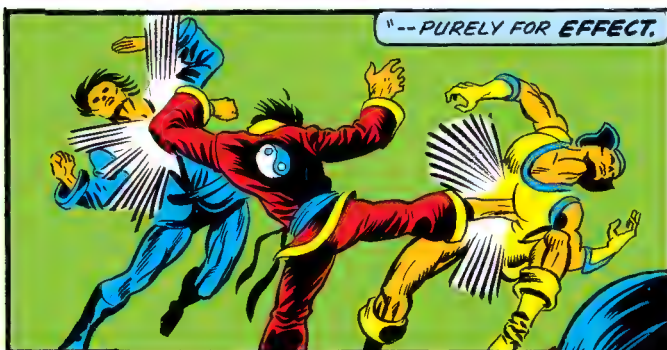


"...THAT I MAY NOW SEE YOU, AND BE ASSURED THAT THERE ARE EVER SEVEN.





"THE SAWDUST MANNIKIN I HAVE ROBED AND PLACED AT HIS TABLE IN DARKNESS... IS NOT THE ONE WITH WHICH HE EARLIER TAUNTED ME. IT IS A DIFFERENT ONE, DISCOVERED OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL CHAMBER..."

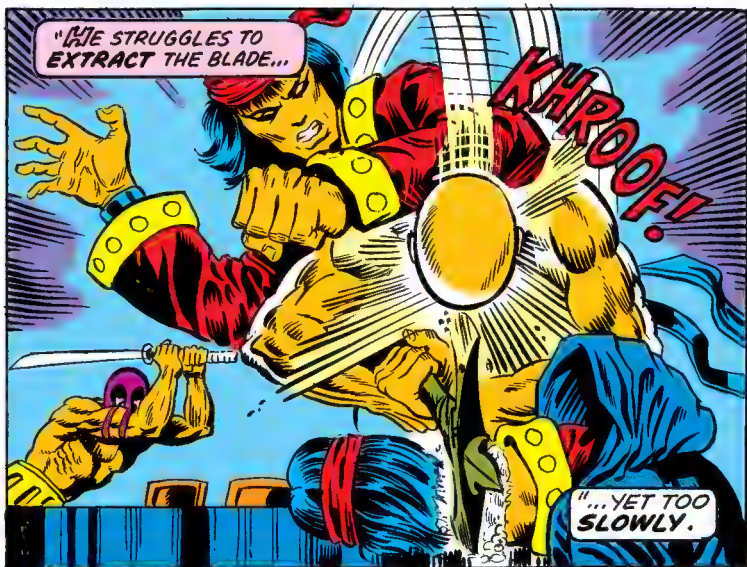


"...AND THE AXE CLEAVES THE AIR I HAVE VACATED--



"--AND THE TABLE BENEATH IT.

"HE STRUGGLES TO EXTRACT THE BLADE..."



"...YET TOO SLOWLY.

"ANOTHER ONE..."



"...SKILLED IN THE ART OF SAMURAI.



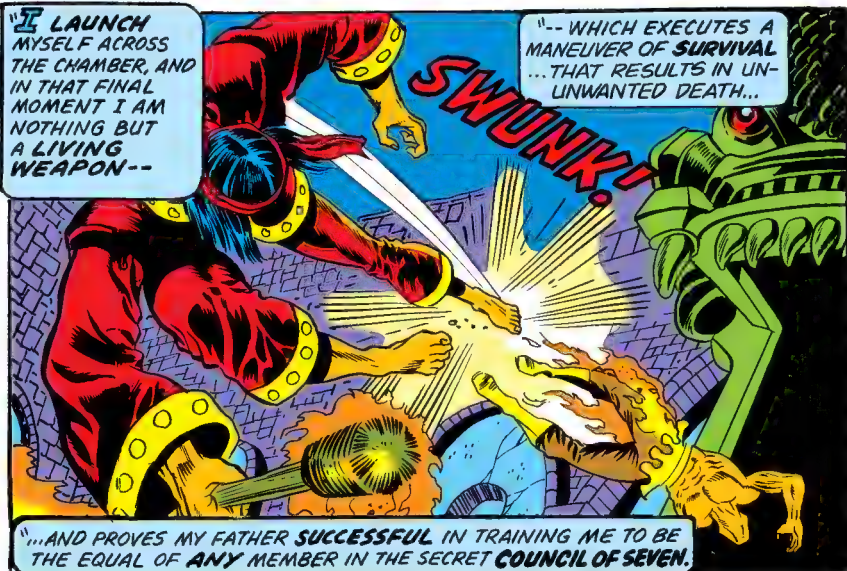
"BUT NOT--

"--IN CAUTION.

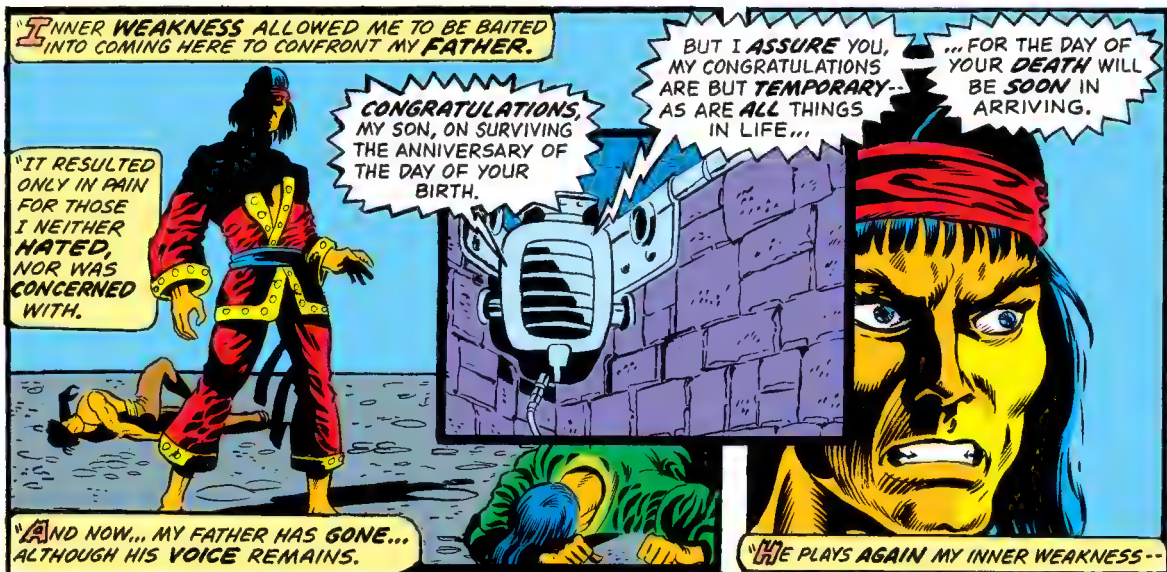


"I LAUNCH MYSELF ACROSS THE CHAMBER, AND IN THAT FINAL MOMENT I AM NOTHING BUT A LIVING WEAPON--

"-- WHICH EXECUTES A MANEUVER OF SURVIVAL ... THAT RESULTS IN UNWANTED DEATH..."



"...AND PROVES MY FATHER SUCCESSFUL IN TRAINING ME TO BE THE EQUAL OF ANY MEMBER IN THE SECRET COUNCIL OF SEVEN.



"INNER WEAKNESS ALLOWED ME TO BE BAITED INTO COMING HERE TO CONFRONT MY FATHER."

"IT RESULTED ONLY IN PAIN FOR THOSE I NEITHER HATED, NOR WAS CONCERNED WITH."

CONGRATULATIONS, MY SON, ON SURVIVING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY OF YOUR BIRTH.

BUT I ASSURE YOU, MY CONGRATULATIONS ARE BUT TEMPORARY-- AS ARE ALL THINGS IN LIFE...

...FOR THE DAY OF YOUR DEATH WILL BE SOON IN ARRIVING.

"AND NOW... MY FATHER HAS GONE... ALTHOUGH HIS VOICE REMAINS."

"THE NIGHT SKY IS FILLED WITH THE SOUND OF --"



"-- AND MY RAGE GROWS."

"IT WAS THE DOOR TO MY FATHER'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS..."



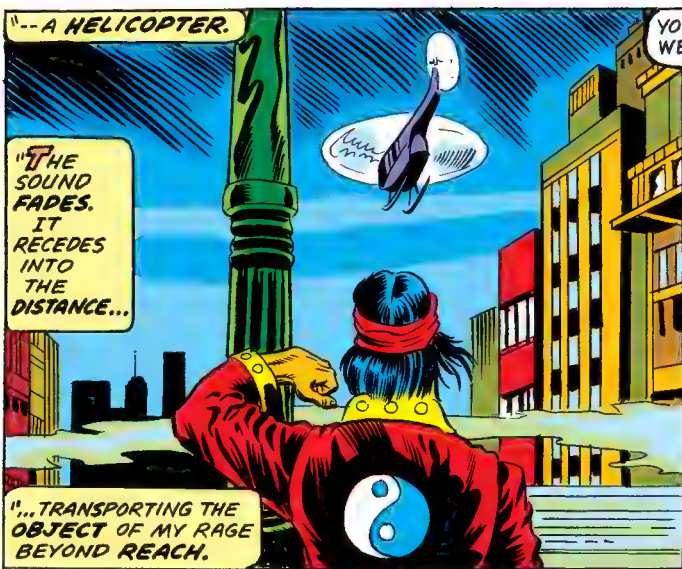
"... NOW OCCUPIED ONLY BY THE WOMAN KNOWN AS DUCHARME."

YOUR FATHER... HAS JUST LEFT, SHANG-CHI...

...PERHAPS YOU MAY STILL... CATCH HIM...



"THE NIGHT SKY IS FILLED WITH THE SOUND OF --"



"-- A HELICOPTER."

"THE SOUND FADES. IT RECEDES INTO THE DISTANCE..."

"...TRANSPORTING THE OBJECT OF MY RAGE BEYOND REACH."

YOU HAVE PERFORMED WELL, PILOT. AND NOW WE JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF AMERICA...



...TO STILL IT, FOREVER.

"AND I WONDER AT MY FATHER'S DESTINATION... FOR THAT IS WHERE I WOULD DIRECT MY RAGE."

FIN



"THIS PLACE,
CALLED **MIAMI**,
FINDS **LIFE**
IN THE SEA
WINDS..."



"...AS THE WINDS
THEMSELVES
FIND **LIFE**, AND
SUBSTANCE, IN
THAT WHICH THEY
TOUCH."

"LOOKING AT
THE **PAPER**,
I AM ABLE
TO **SEE** THE
WIND..."



"...AND **GRASP**
ITS **LIFE**."



"THE **PAPER**, TOO,
HAS A **LIFE** OF
ITS OWN."

"IT IS FOUND IN...
WORDS."

"KNOWING THAT WORDS ARE THE TOOLS OF **COMMUNICATION**, IS IT NOT STRANGE THAT THESE TOOLS EXIST IN SO MANY FORMS...A **DIFFERENT** FORM FOR EACH REGION OF THE **WORLD**...?"



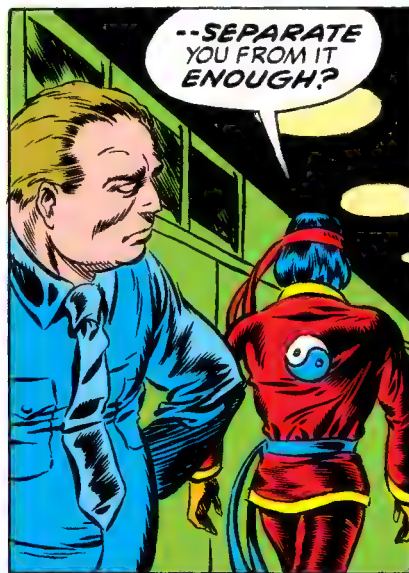
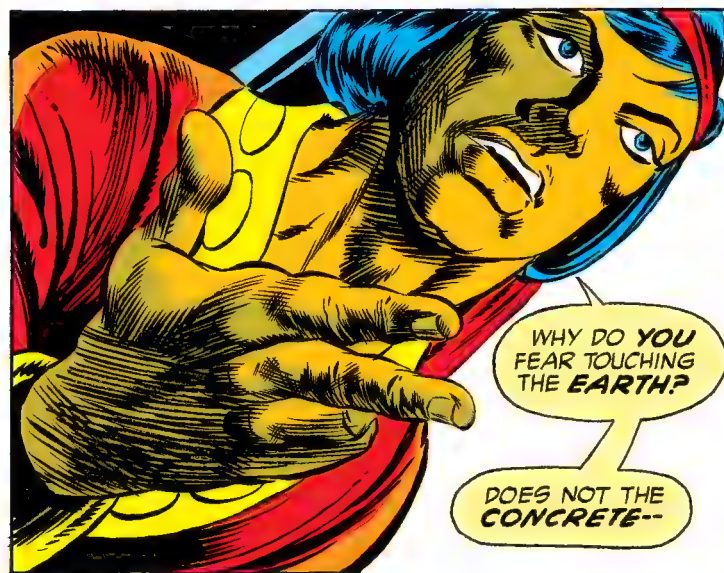
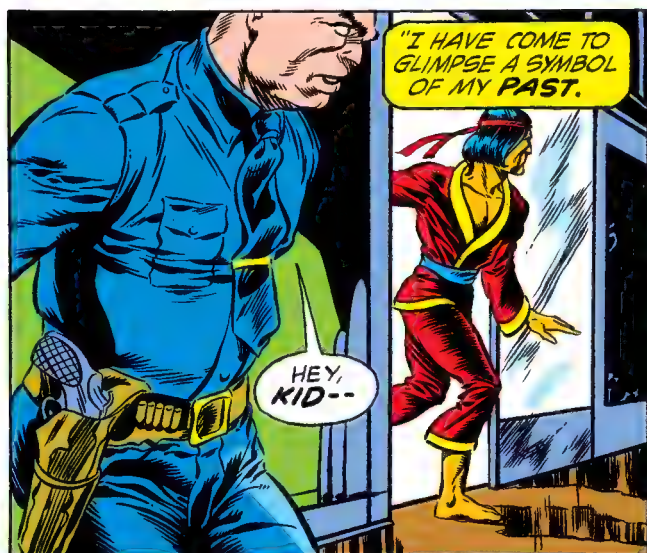
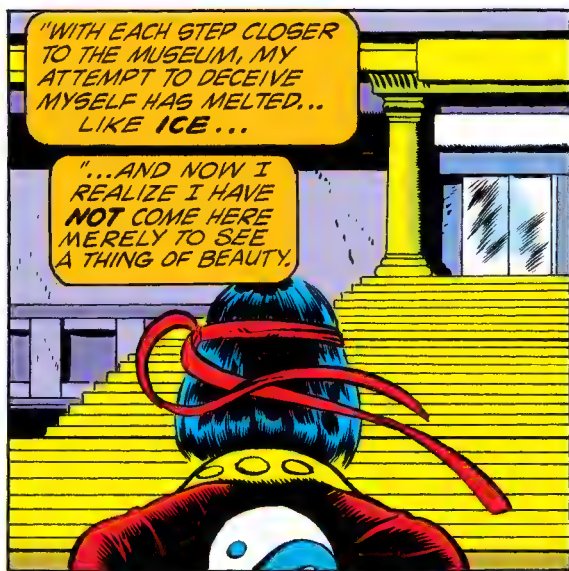
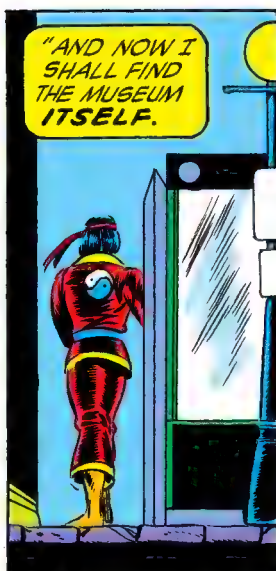
"WOULD IT NOT AID
UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATION
IF A **SINGLE** SYSTEM OF
TOOLS WERE EMPLOYED...
FAMILIAR TO ALL
NATIONS...?"

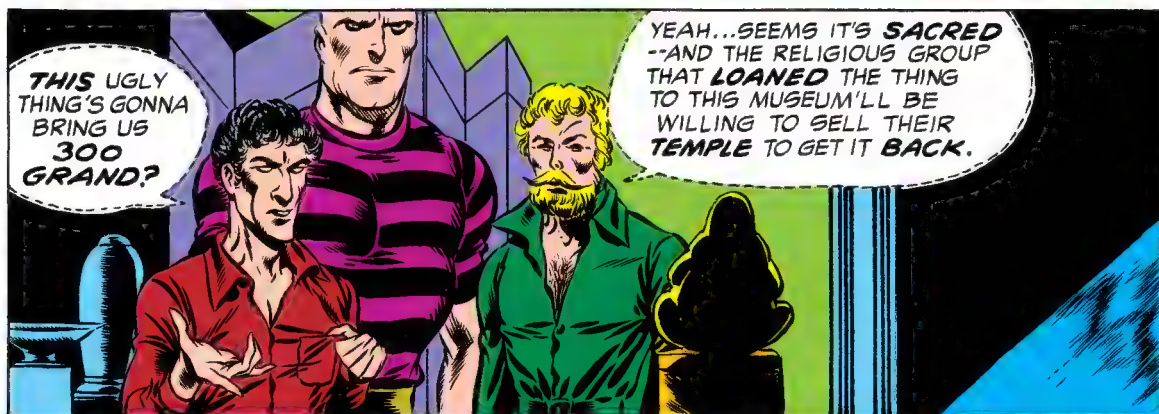
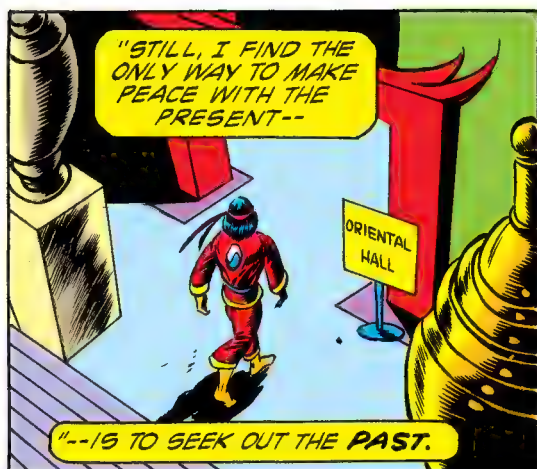
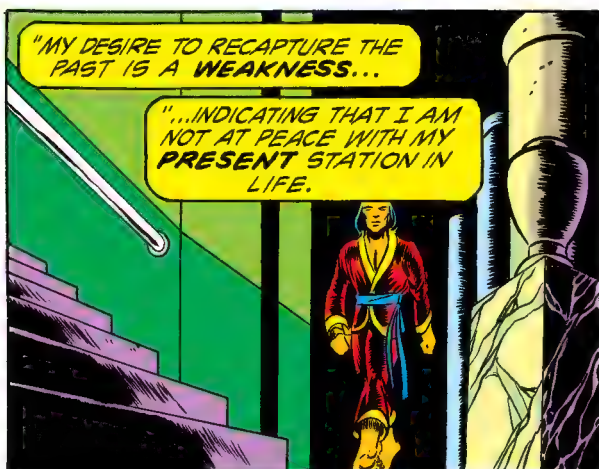
"STILL, I HAVE STUDIED
MANY LANGUAGES, THE
WORDS ON THIS PAPER
ARE **UNDERSTOOD**
BY ME..."

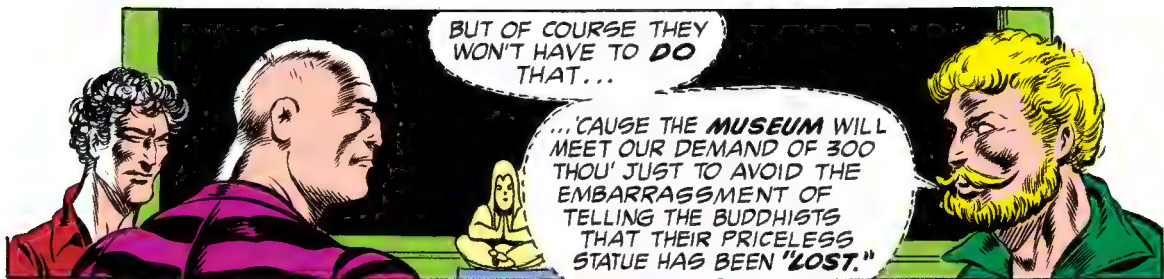
"...BUT THE **PICTURE** COMMUNICATES MORE
THAN ALL THE WORDS IN THEIR COMBINED ESSENCE."

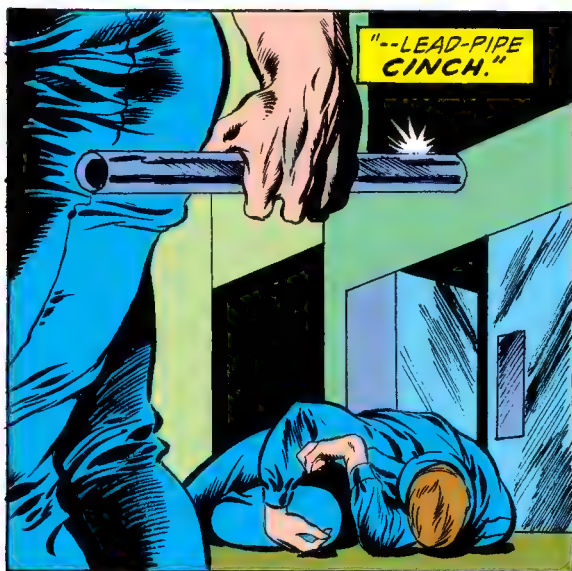
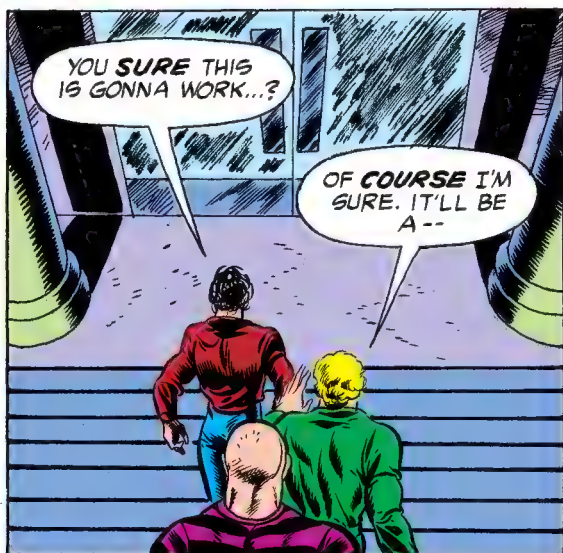
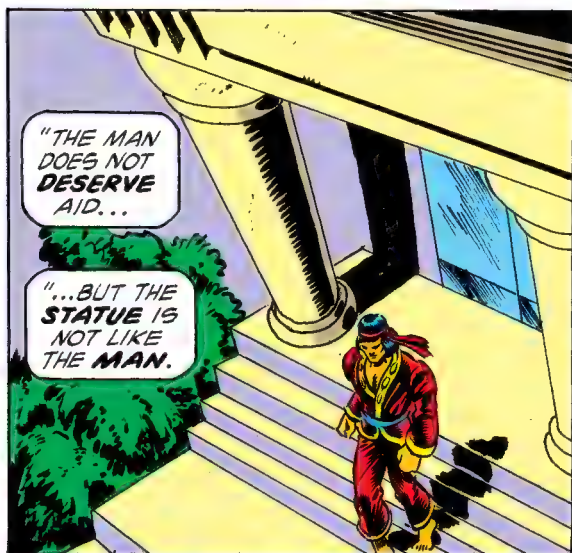
FROZEN PAST, SHATTERED MEMORIES

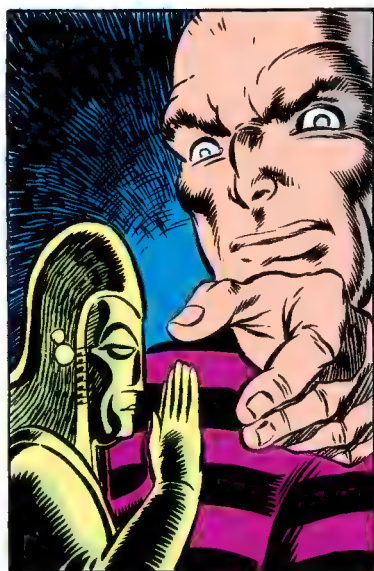
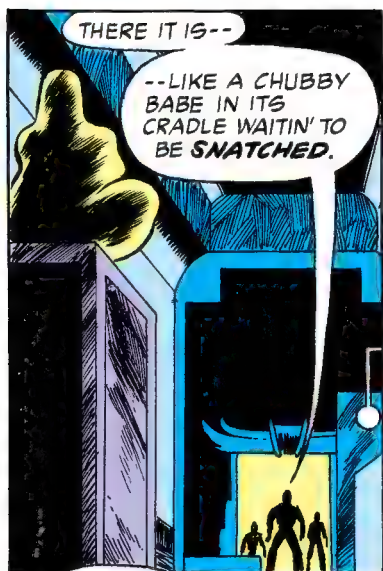
DOUG MOENCH STORY CRAIG RUSSELL ART

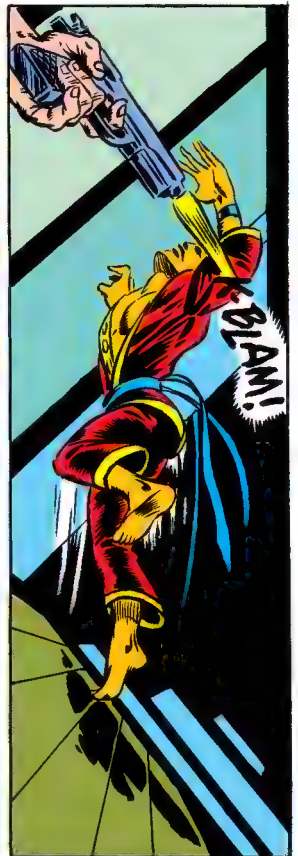
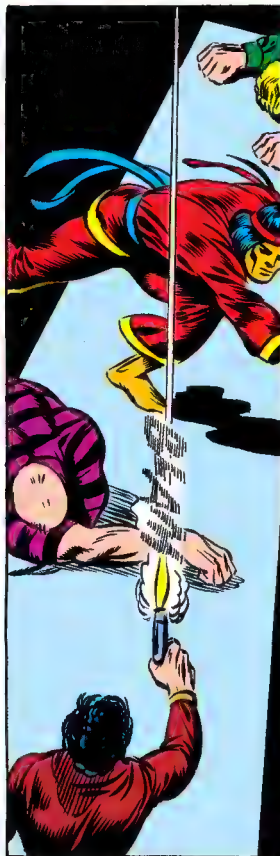
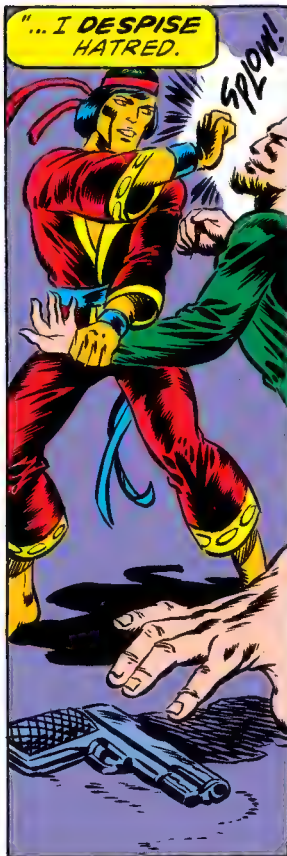
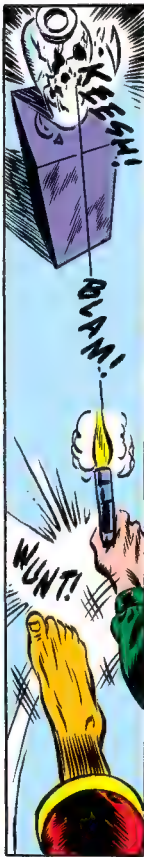


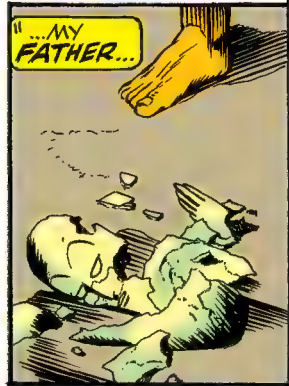
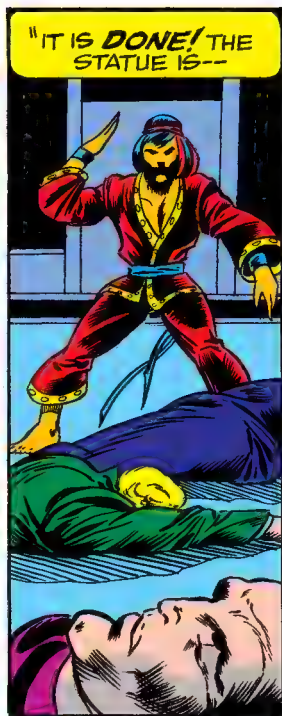
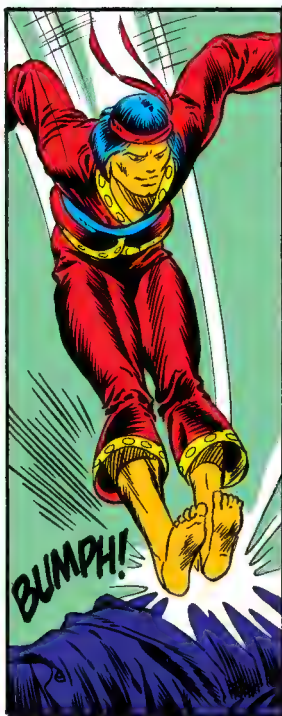
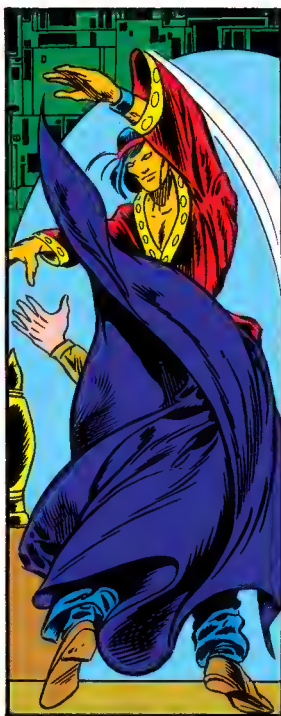












SHAOLIN TEMPLE BOXING

ALONE AND ON FOOT, THE
BUDDHIST MONK BODHIDHARMA
BECAME THE FIRST MAN TO
CROSS THE HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS
IN ORDER TO BRING THE MARTIAL
ARTS TO CHINA--A TRIP OF OVER
8,000 MILES ACROSS THE
MOST FORBIDDING TERRAIN
IN THE WORLD.

THIS UNIQUE MAN
THUS DEVELOPED
HIS PHYSICAL,
MENTAL AND
SPIRITUAL
DISCIPLINE WHICH
LATER BECAME
KNOW AS ZEN
BUDDHISM.

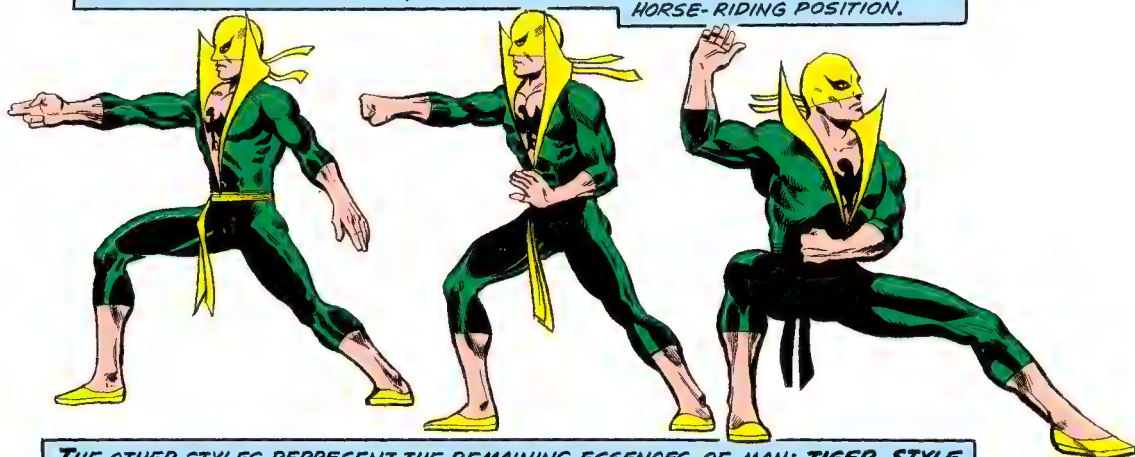
BODHIDHARMA'S CLOSE
OBSERVATION OF
ANIMALS LED TO
HIS INVENTION OF
THE SHAOLIN SYSTEM
OF DEFENSE. LATER
EVOLUTION OF THE
ART DEVELOPED
SOME 170 ACTIONS
WHICH ARE THE BASIS
FOR SHAOLIN TODAY.

THESE ACTIONS TOOK
THE FORM OF STYLES:
THE DRAGON, TIGER,
LEOPARD, SNAKE,
AND CRANE.

Frank McLaughlin—



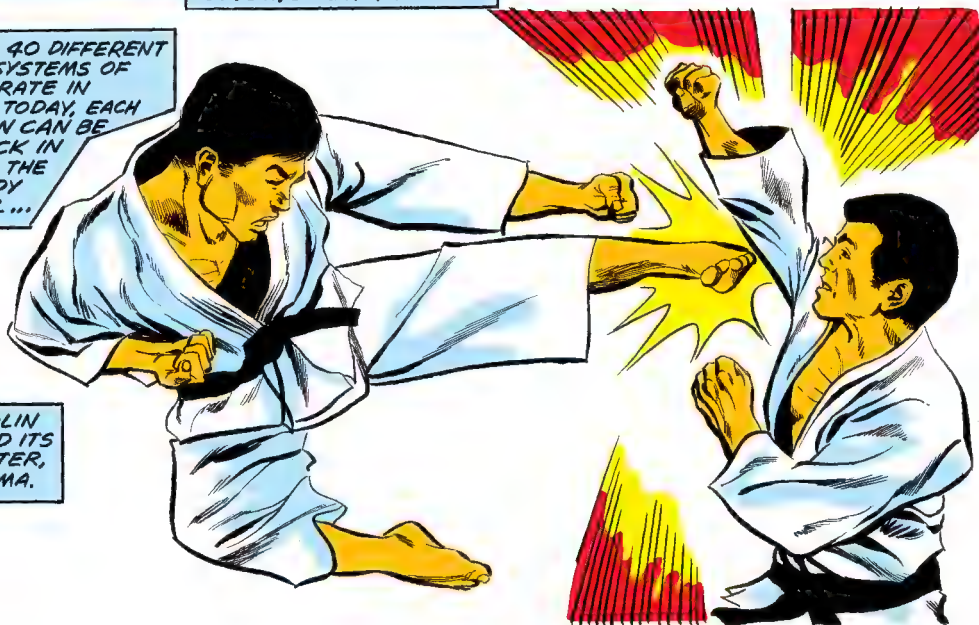
THE DRAGON STYLE ILLUSTRATED HERE REPRESENTS THE CIVILIZATION OF SPIRIT. NO STRENGTH IS USED IN THIS EXERCISE, WHICH IS MEANT TO REPRESENT A DRAGON FLOATING IN THE AIR, READY TO ATTACK IN ANY DIRECTION. NOTE THE LOW, HORSE-RIDING POSITION.



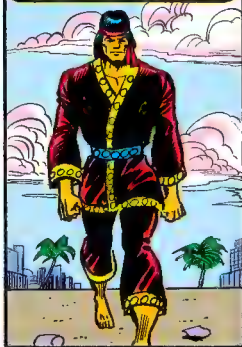
THE OTHER STYLES REPRESENT THE REMAINING ESSENCES OF MAN: TIGER-STYLE, THE TRAINING OF BONES; LEOPARD STYLE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRENGTH; SNAKE STYLE, THE CULTIVATION OF CH'I OR LIFE FORCE; AND CRANE STYLE, SINEW TRAINING.

WITH OVER 40 DIFFERENT STYLES OR SYSTEMS OF MODERN KARATE IN EXISTENCE TODAY, EACH ONE'S ORIGIN CAN BE TRACED BACK IN HISTORY TO THE GRAND DADDY OF THEM ALL...

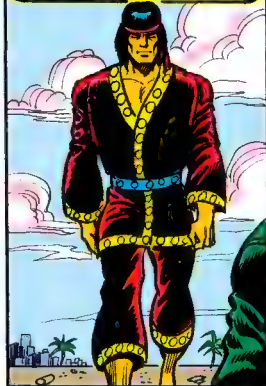
...THE SHAOLIN SYSTEM AND ITS GRAND MASTER, BODHIDHARMA.



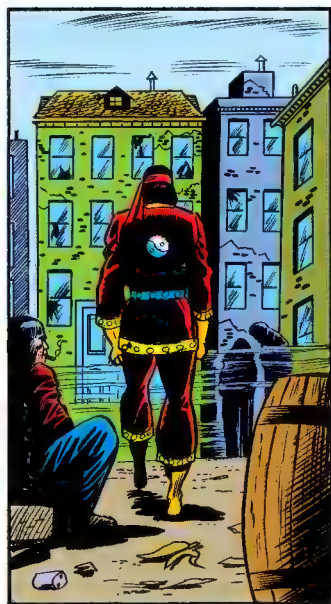
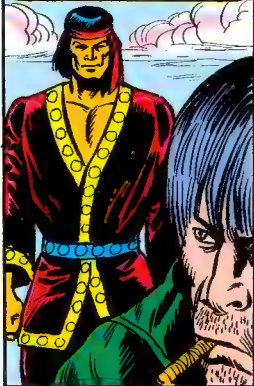
"I WALK THROUGH THE CENTER OF THIS CITY CALLED MIAMI, AND I AM REMINDED THAT EVEN THE MOST SUCCULENT PIECE OF FRUIT MAY BE SPOILED WITH DECAY AT ITS CORE.



"THE DWELLERS OF THIS PLACE COMMUNE WITH FILTH, WHEN BUT MINUTES AGO I WALKED THROUGH STREETS PAVED WITH THE WESTERN WORLD'S EQUIVALENT OF GOLD.

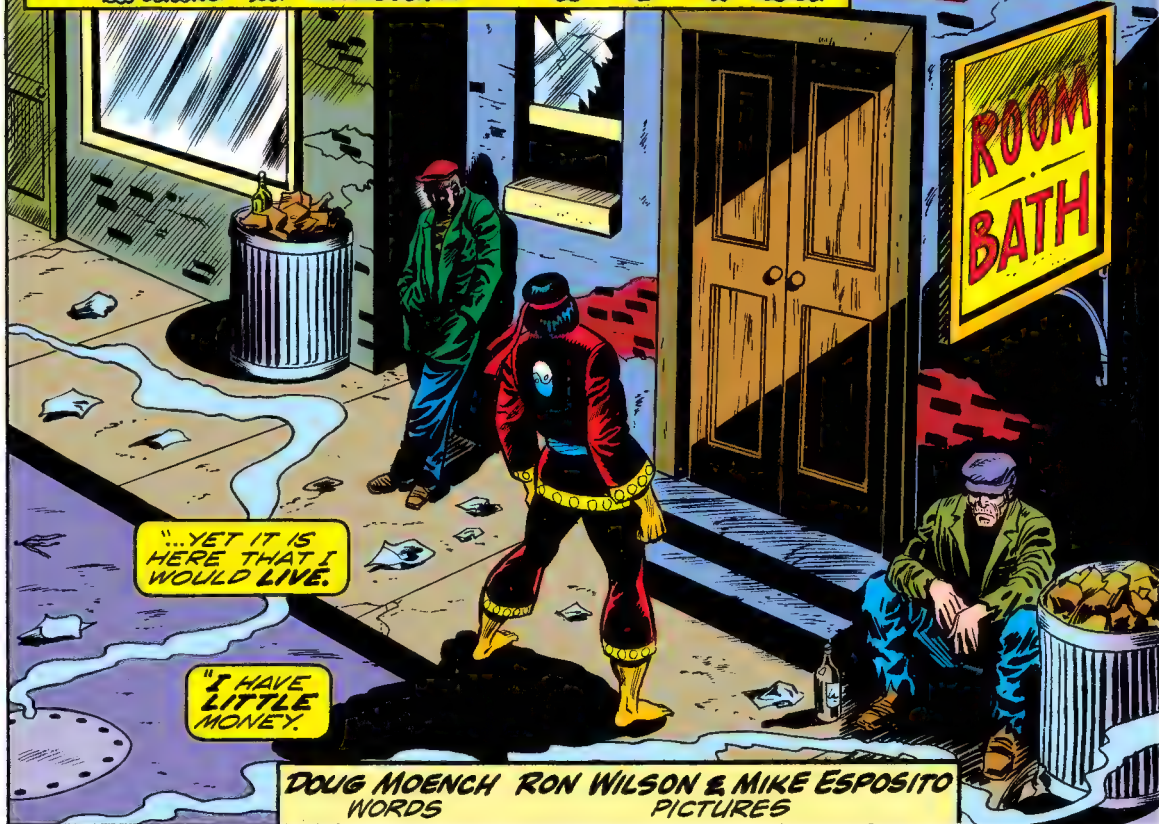


"AS THOUGH TRAVERSING THE SYMBOLS OF YIN AND YANG, I HAVE CROSSED THE JUNCTURE INTO BLEAKNESS AND DARK DESPAIR. THE REGION IS UNINHABITABLE...



REFLECTIONS

IN A RIPPLED POOL



"...YET IT IS HERE THAT I WOULD LIVE.

"I HAVE LITTLE MONEY.

DOUG MOENCH RON WILSON & MIKE ESPOSITO
WORDS PICTURES



"I HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO BLESS THE EYE THAT MAY SEE **INSIDE**. YET, WHAT OF THE EYE THAT SEES NO MORE THAN AN INSIDE FILLED WITH...

"...BLIND HOPE, AND HOPELESS DREAMS...?"

PLEASE... IF YOU COULD HELP ...A QUARTER... A **DIME**...

"THE MAN KNOWS NOTHING BUT **SOUND**. I HAVE MADE **NO SOUND**, AND THUS HE CANNOT **KNOW**--

"--IF THERE IS ANYONE TO **HEAR** HIS PLEAS.

BLAM!

"I WOULD SPEAK ...BUT THE LAST SOUND THE MAN KNOWS IS--

"--A **GUNSHOT**."

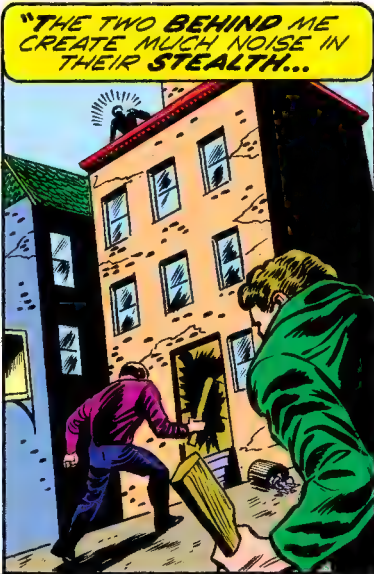
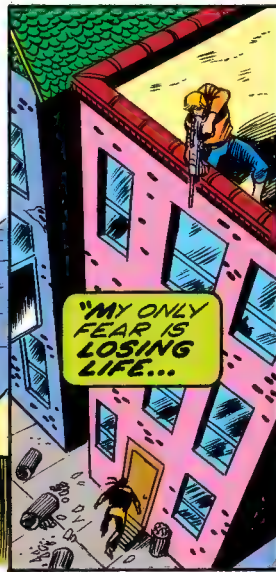
"AND THE **GUNSHOT**..."

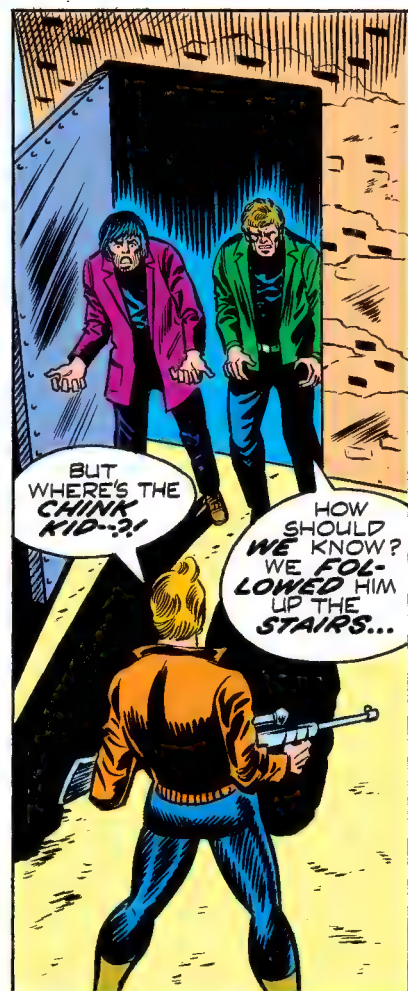
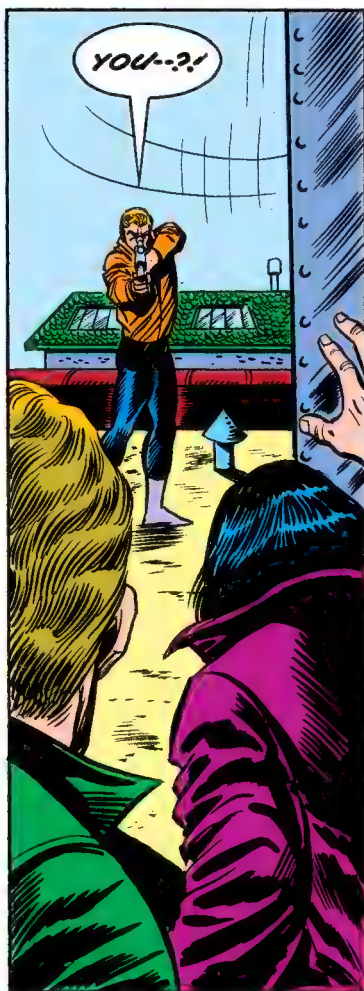
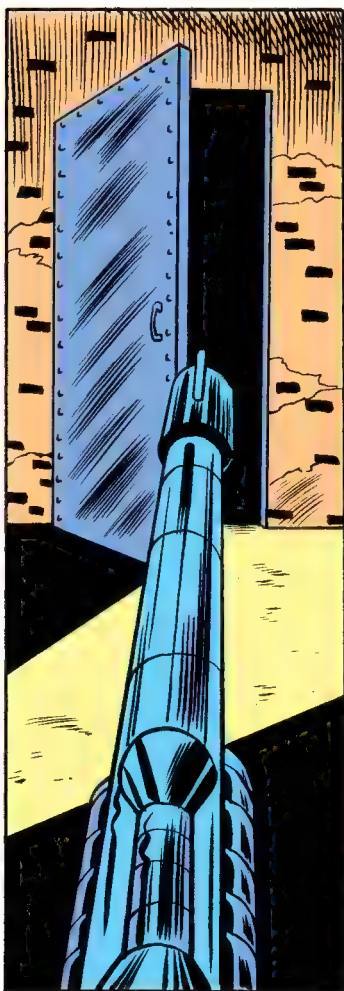
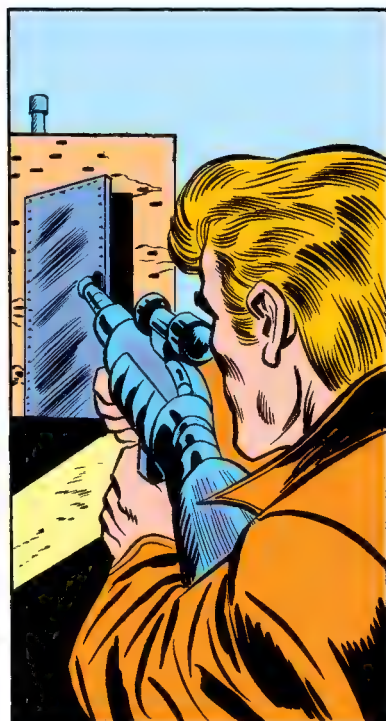
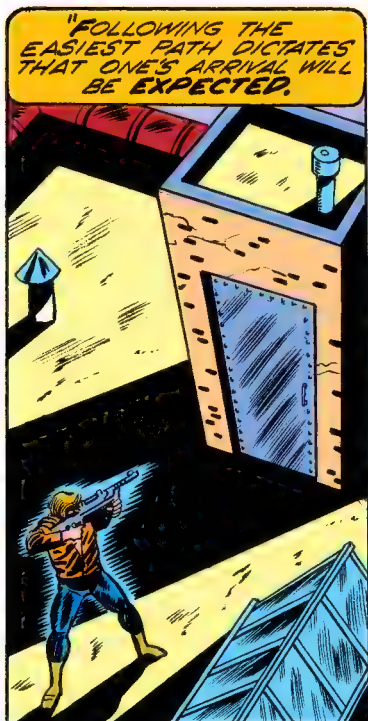
BLAM!

"...WAS NOT EVEN MEANT FOR HIM."

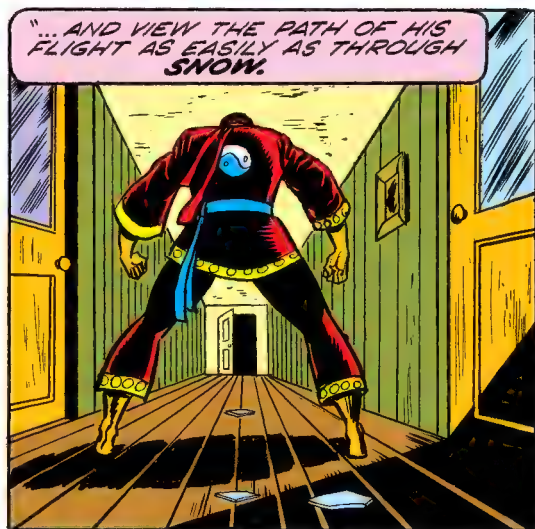
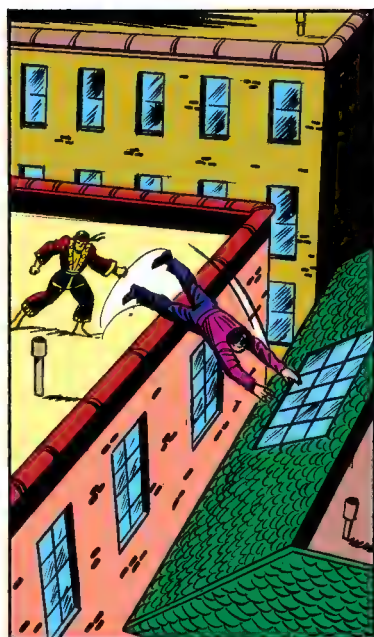
"IT WAS DIRECTED AT..."

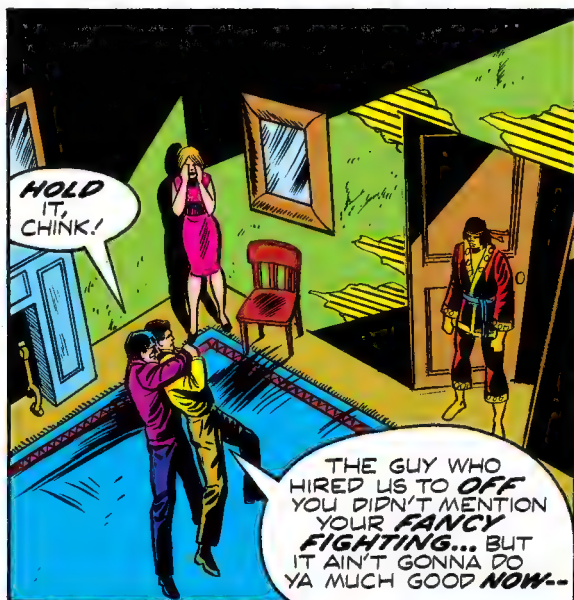
"...ME."











HOLD IT, CHINK!

THE GUY WHO HIRED US TO OFF YOU DIDN'T MENTION YOUR **FANCY FIGHTING...** BUT IT AIN'T GONNA DO YA MUCH GOOD **NOW--**



--'CAUSE IF YOU TAKE SO MUCH AS **ONE STEP FORWARD...**

...THIS THROAT **BLEEDS!**



NOW... IF YOU WANT THIS GUY TO **LIVE--**



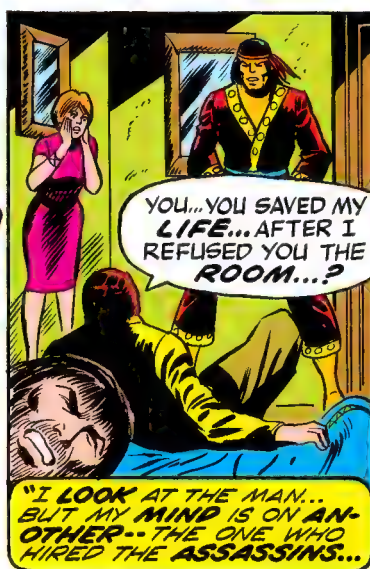
--YOU'RE GONNA LET ME **OUT OF...**



...HUHHH--?!

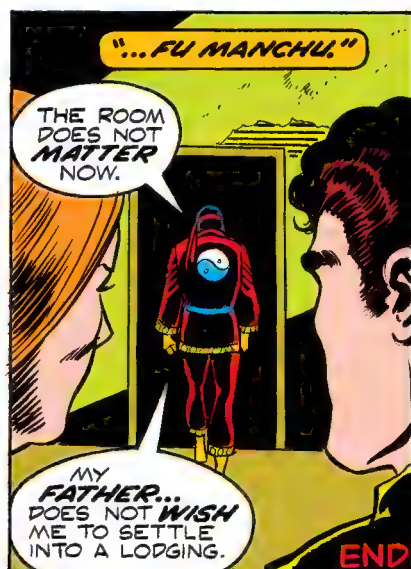


BWUNT!



YOU... YOU SAVED MY **LIFE...** AFTER I REFUSED YOU THE **ROOM...?**

"I LOOK AT THE MAN... BUT MY MIND IS ON AN **OTHER--** THE ONE WHO HIRED THE **ASSASSINS...**



...FU MANCHU."

THE ROOM DOES NOT **MATTER** NOW.

MY **FATHER...** DOES NOT **WISH** ME TO SETTLE INTO A LODGING.

END

GIANT-SIZE
SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



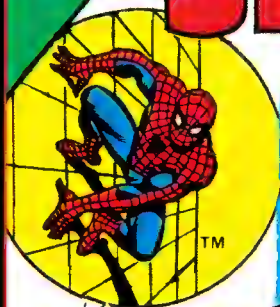
2 OCT
02921

50¢

©

68 BIG PAGES

GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN™ AND MASTER OF KUNG FU™



NEW! SUPER-POWERS
VS.
THE MARTIAL ARTS!
THE BATTLE ROYAL
YOUR LETTERS DEMANDED!



EXTRA! BLOCKBUSTER BONUS!
SPIDEY CLASHES WITH THE MIGHTY
AVENGERS--
AND THE ROARING, RAMPAGING
HULK!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **SPIDEY and SHANG-CHI...TOGETHER!**

MASTERSTROKE!

AN ALL-NEW 30 PAGE EXTRAVAGANZA IN WHICH EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE WEB-SLINGER CONFRONTS LITERATURE'S MOST DIABOLICAL VILLAIN, PRESENTED FOR YOUR EDIFICATION BY THESE STALWARTS:

LEN WEIN & ROSS ANDRU
WRITER ARTIST
AL G. WEIN: COLORIST ROY
MILGROM J. COSTANZA: LETTERS THOMAS
INKER EDITOR
FEATURING CHARACTERS CREATED
by SAX ROHMER

THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER EAST SIDE, ARCHITECT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT, IS BEING VIOLATED THIS FINE SUMMER'S NIGHT BY A HANDFUL OF STRANGELY-GARBED MEN--

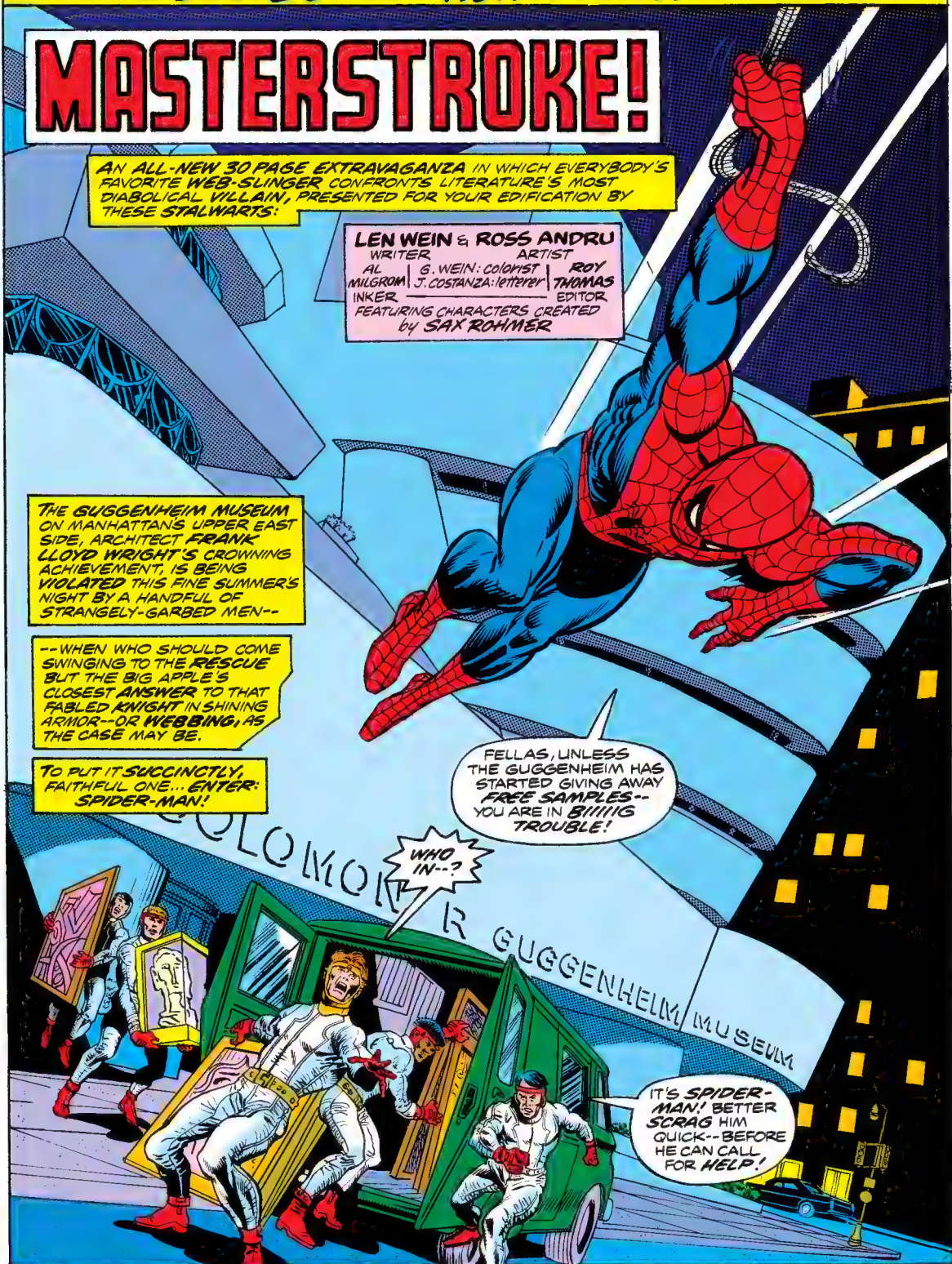
--WHEN WHO SHOULD COME SWINGING TO THE RESCUE BUT THE BIG APPLE'S CLOSEST ANSWER TO THAT FABLED KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR--OR WEBBING, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

TO PUT IT SUCCINCTLY, FAITHFUL ONE... ENTER: SPIDER-MAN!

FELLAS, UNLESS THE GUGGENHEIM HAS STARTED GIVING AWAY FREE SAMPLES-- YOU ARE IN BIGGINS TROUBLE!

WHO IN--?

IT'S SPIDER-MAN! BETTER SCRAG HIM QUICK-- BEFORE HE CAN CALL FOR HELP!







MAYBE NOT,
HERO-MAN--

--BUT WE DON'T
HALFTA TOUCH YOU TO
CUT YOU--BAD!



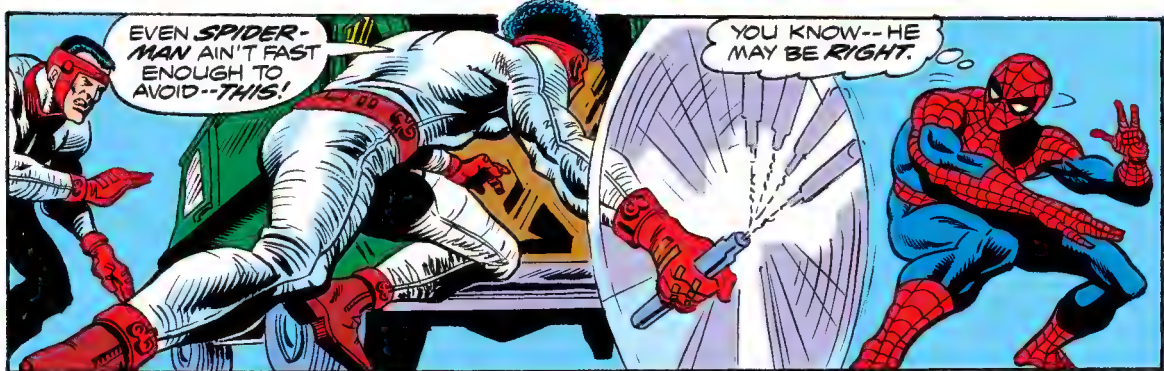
UH-UH,
CHUCKLES--
THOSE NINJA
STARS WON'T
EVEN COME
CLOSE!

I WATCH THE
TV SHOW TOO!



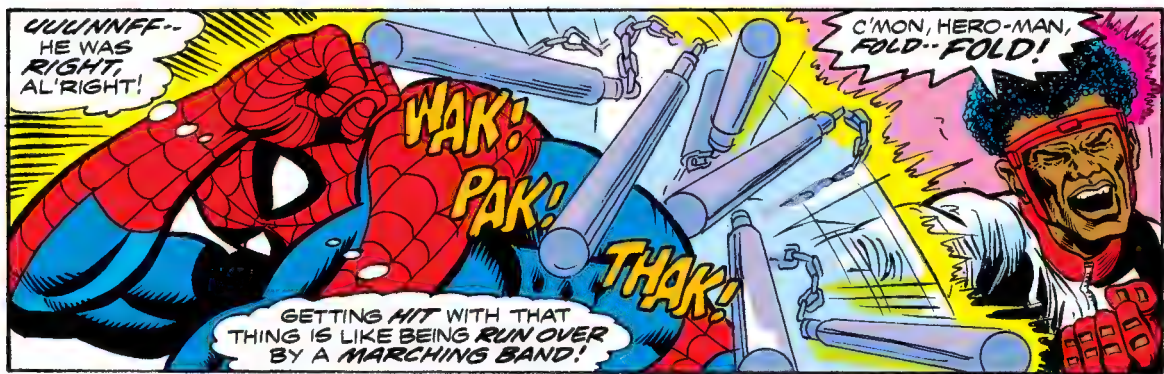
OKAY,
WEB-HEAD
--THAT
DOES IT!

MY NUNCHA-
KUS GONNA
LAY YOU OPEN
LIKE AN OVER-
RIPE MELON!



EVEN SPIDER-
MAN AIN'T FAST
ENOUGH TO
AVOID--THIS!

YOU KNOW--HE
MAY BE RIGHT.

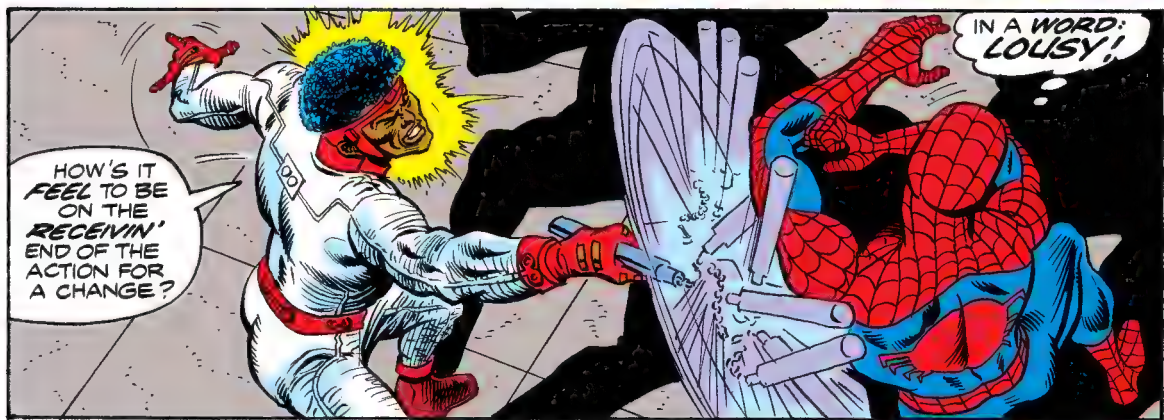


GUU'NNEF--
HE WAS
RIGHT,
AL'RIGHT!

WAK!
PAK!
THAK!

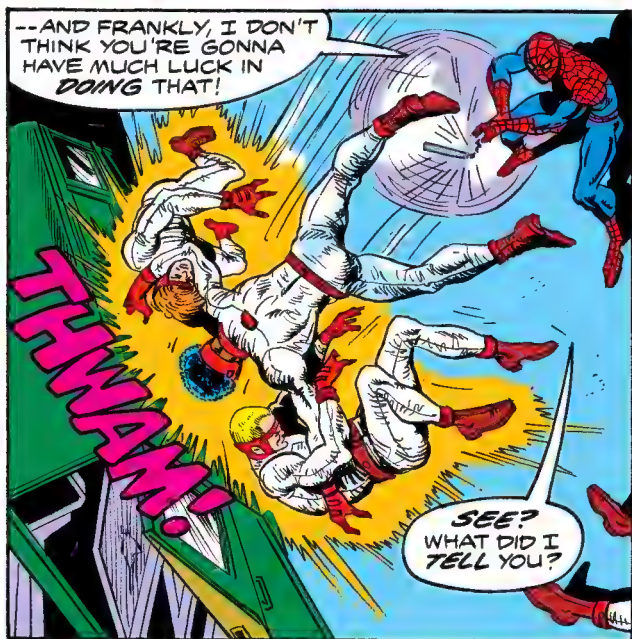
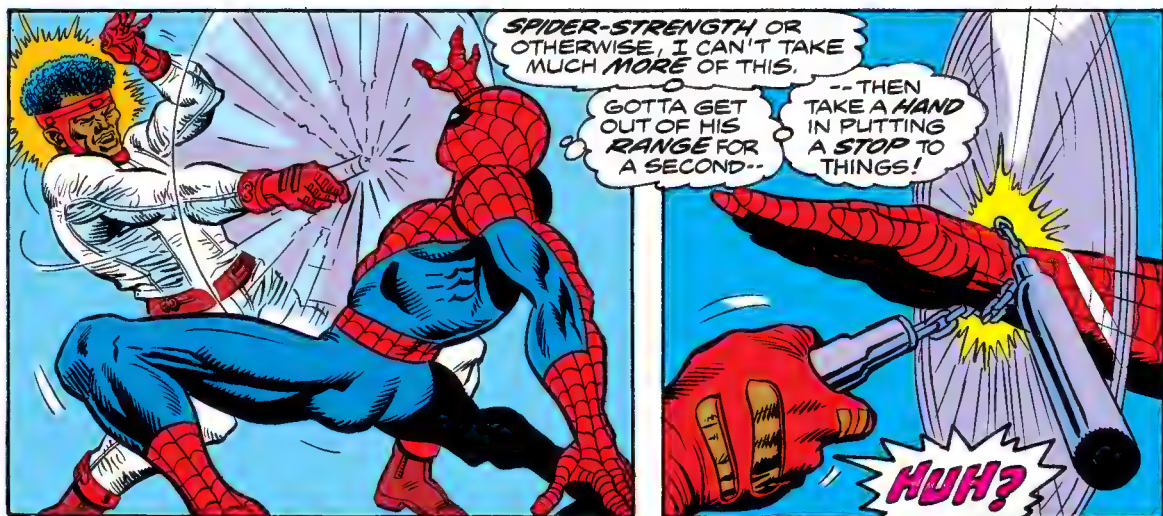
GETTING HIT WITH THAT
THING IS LIKE BEING RUN OVER
BY A MARCHING BAND!

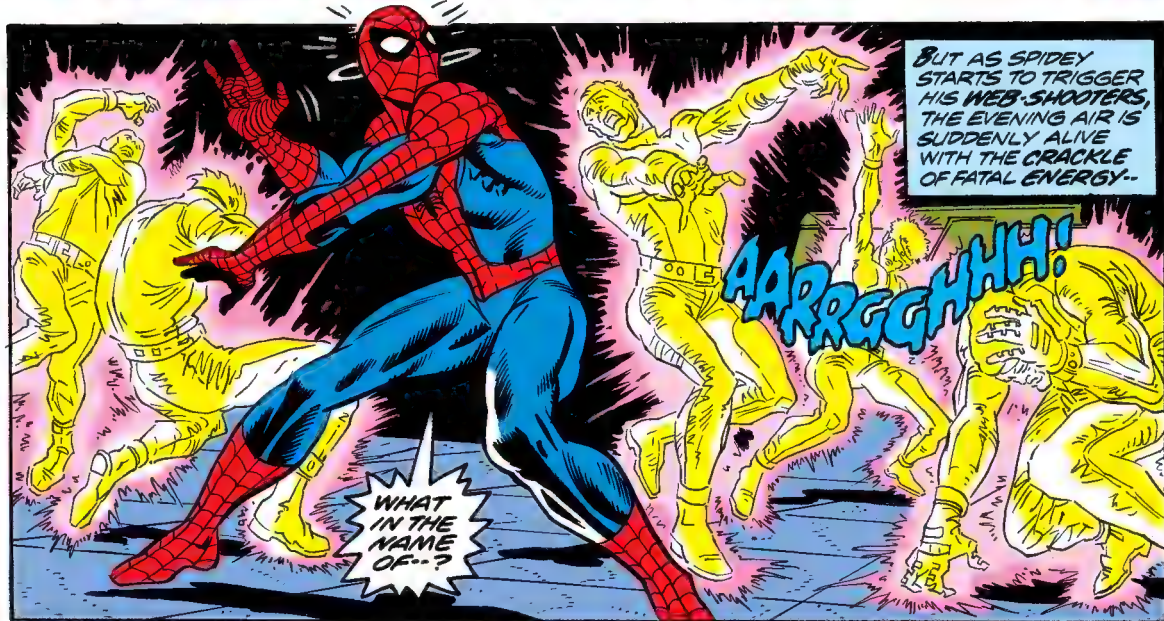
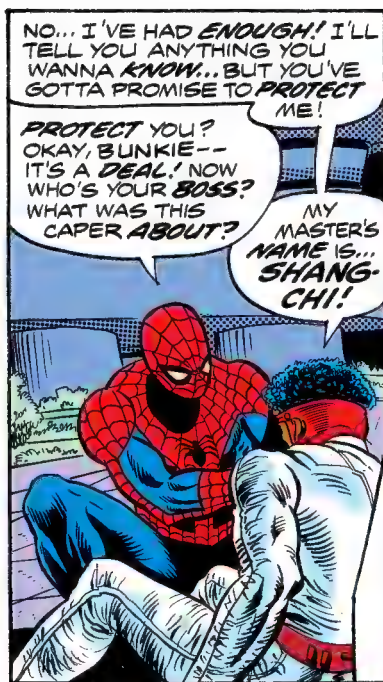
C'MON, HERO-MAN,
FOLD--FOLD!

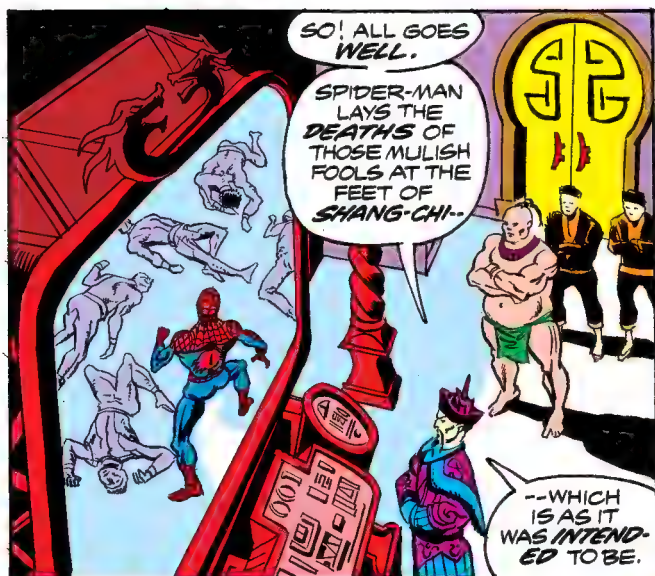


HOW'S IT
FEEL TO BE
ON THE
RECEIVIN'
END OF THE
ACTION FOR
A CHANGE?

IN A WORD:
LOUSY!







SO! ALL GOES WELL.

SPIDER-MAN LAYS THE DEATHS OF THOSE MULISH FOOLS AT THE FEET OF SHANG-CHI--

--WHICH IS AS IT WAS INTENDED TO BE.

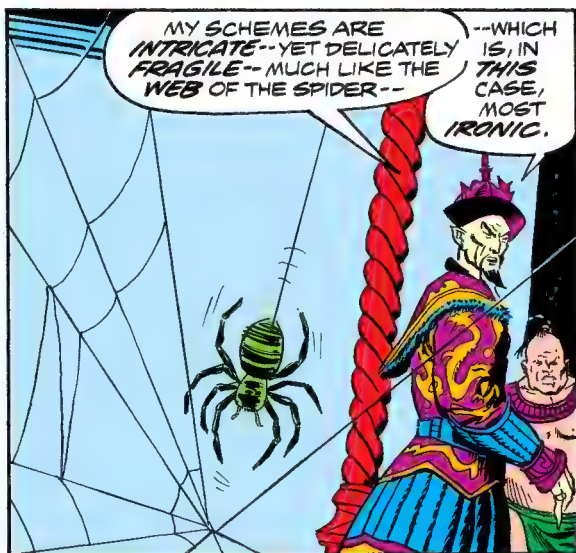


SINCE FIRST HE LEARNED OF MY TRUE PURPOSE IN THIS LIFE-- TO REESTABLISH WORLD ORDER UNDER MY DOMINATION-- SHANG-CHI HAS SOUGHT TO THWART ME AT EVERY TURN--

--AN OFFENSE I WILL TOLERATE FROM NO ONE--

--LEAST OF ALL, MY OWN SON--

--THE SON OF FU MANCHU!



MY SCHEMES ARE INTRICATE--YET DELICATELY FRAGILE-- MUCH LIKE THE WEB OF THE SPIDER--

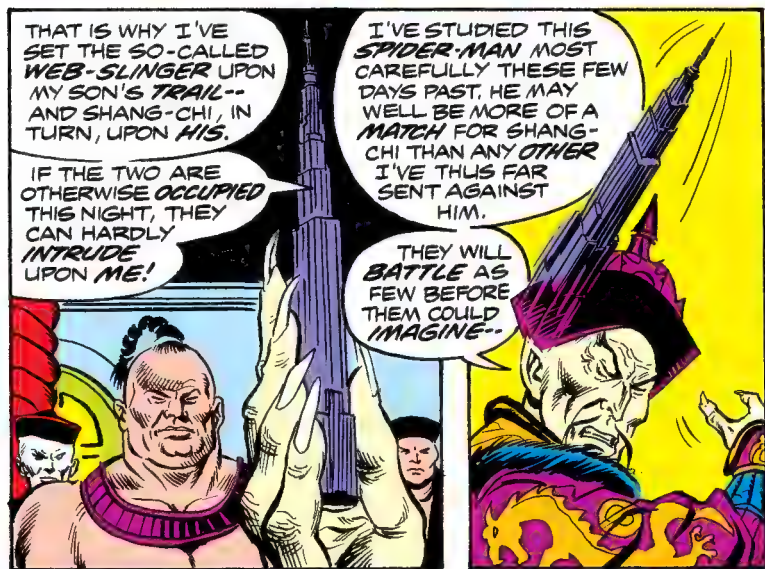
--WHICH IS, IN THIS CASE, MOST IRONIC.



IN A FEW SHORT HOURS, MY MOST AMBITIOUS VENTURE SINCE THE MIMOSA-LACED GASOLINE FIASCO* WILL BE IN ACTIVE OPERATION ATOP THE LOFTY EMPIRE STATE BUILDING--

--AN OPERATION THAT MUST NOT BE INTERFERED WITH!

*BACK IN MASTER OF KUNG FU #18. --ROY.



THAT IS WHY I'VE SET THE SO-CALLED WEB-SLINGER UPON MY SON'S TRAIL-- AND SHANG-CHI, IN TURN, UPON HIS.

IF THE TWO ARE OTHERWISE OCCUPIED THIS NIGHT, THEY CAN HARDLY INTRUDE UPON ME!

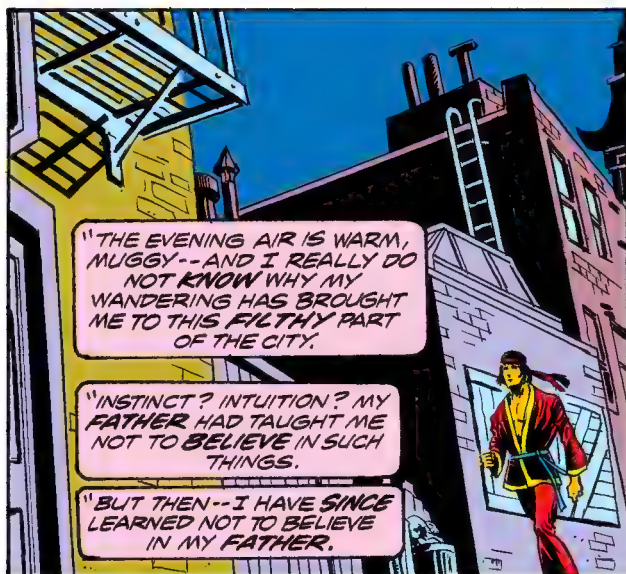
I'VE STUDIED THIS SPIDER-MAN MOST CAREFULLY THESE FEW DAYS PAST. HE MAY WELL BE MORE OF A MATCH FOR SHANG-CHI THAN ANY OTHER I'VE THUS FAR SENT AGAINST HIM.

THEY WILL BATTLE AS FEW BEFORE THEM COULD IMAGINE--



--AND IF, BY CHANCE, ONE OF THEM DESTROYS THE OTHER--

--IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE TO ME!



"THE EVENING AIR IS WARM, MUGGY--AND I REALLY DO NOT KNOW WHY MY WANDERING HAS BROUGHT ME TO THIS FILTHY PART OF THE CITY."

"INSTINCT? INTUITION? MY FATHER HAD TAUGHT ME NOT TO BELIEVE IN SUCH THINGS."

"BUT THEN--I HAVE SINCE LEARNED NOT TO BELIEVE IN MY FATHER."



"WHAT AM I DOING HERE?"

"AN ANSWER COMES. A LOUD, ANGUISHED MOAN FROM THE DEPTHS OF THAT ALLEY."

SOMEONE IS IN NEED OF HELP!



LOUSY OLD SLANT! YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US OR WE'LL...

HUH? WHADDA YOU WANT, FREAK?

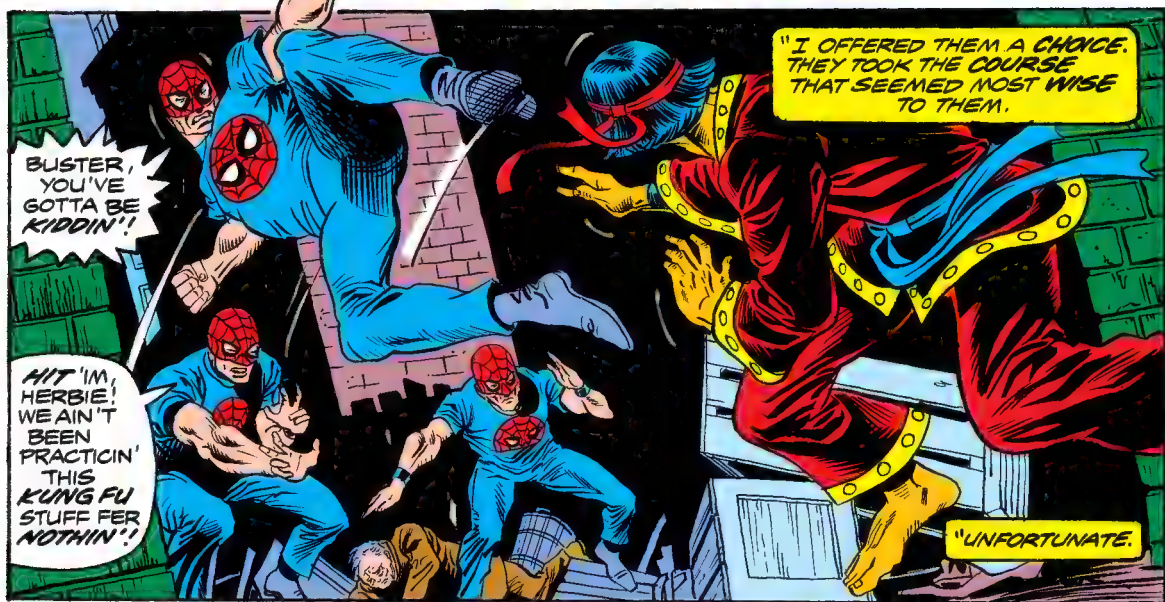
I DO NOT WISH TO HARM YOU.



RELEASE THE AGED GENTLEMAN--BE SWIFTLY ON YOUR WAY--

--AND THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR US TO CONFRONT ONE ANOTHER IN VIOLENCE.

PLEASE.

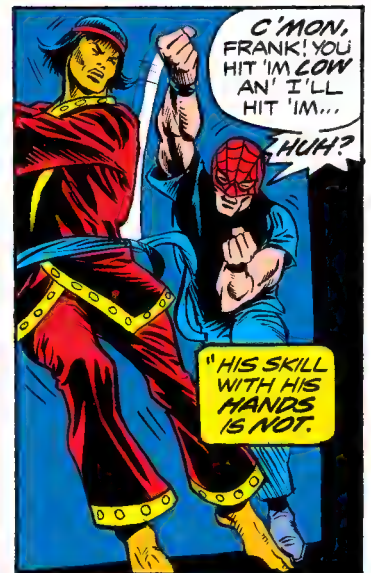


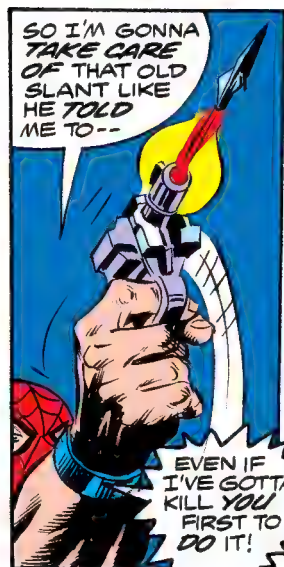
BUSTER, YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDIN'!

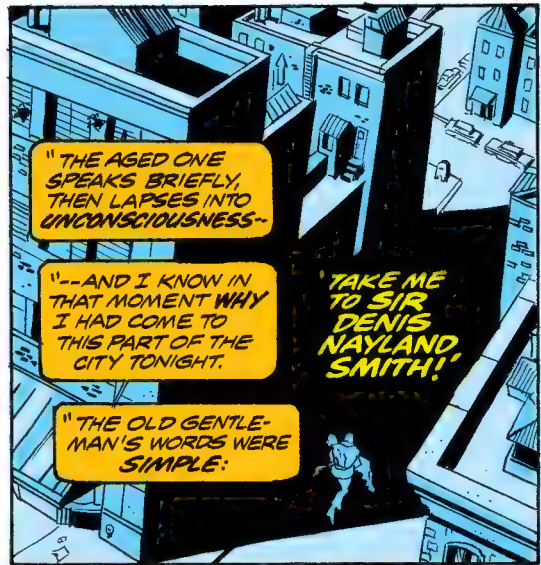
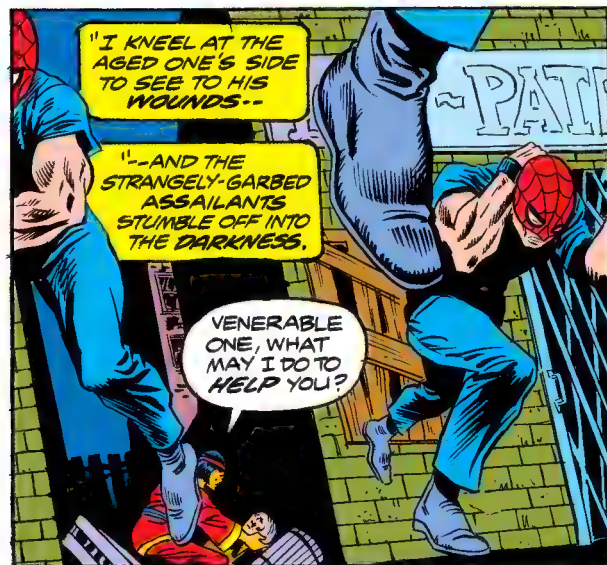
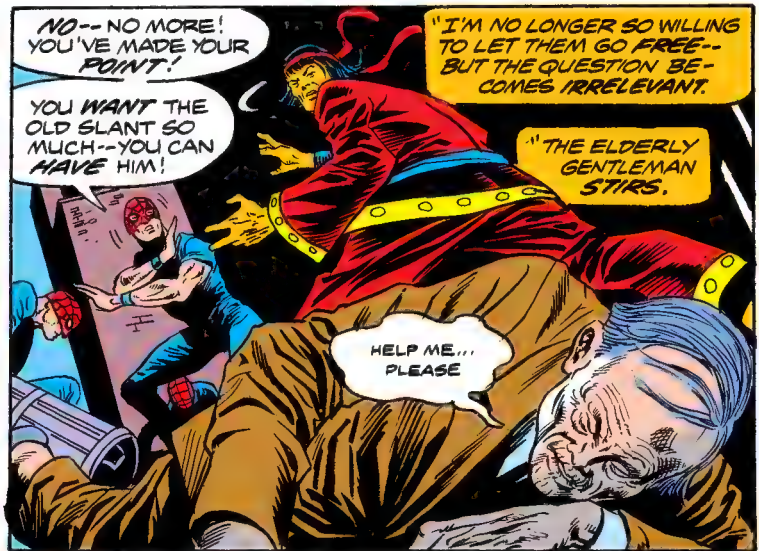
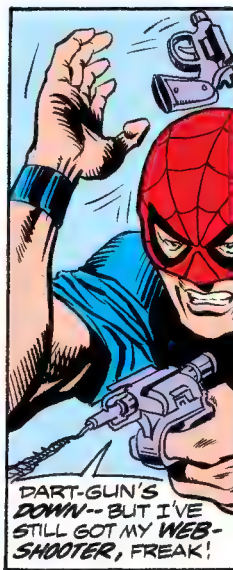
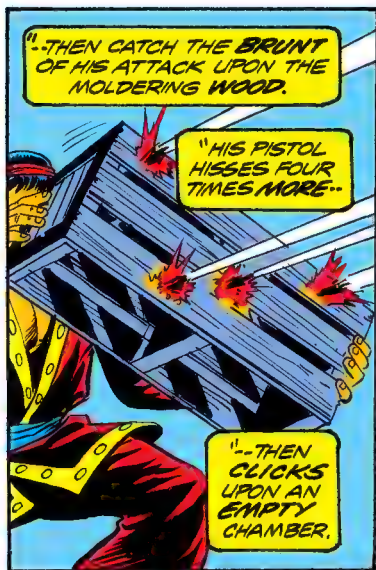
HIT 'IM, HERBIE! WE AIN'T BEEN PRACTICIN' THIS KUNG FU STUFF FER NOTHIN'!

"I OFFERED THEM A CHOICE. THEY TOOK THE COURSE THAT SEEMED MOST WISE TO THEM."

"UNFORTUNATE."







CHAPTER
TWO

CROSS...and DOUBLE-CROSS!

"FOR MORE THAN *THRICE* THE SPAN OF MY LIFE, SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH HAS COMBATED THE SCHEMES OF MY FATHER.

"NOW AS I STAND IN THE FOYER OF HIS MID-MANHATTAN OFFICES, LISTENING TO HIM GENTLY QUESTION THE FRAIL BURDEN I'VE CARRIED TO HIS DOOR, I WONDER AT THE DISPARITIES BETWEEN SMITH AND THE MADMAN WHO Sired ME.

"SMITH IS OLD, BENT WITH THE WEIGHT OF HIS YEARS-- YET HIS EYES ARE LIT WITH A VITALITY THAT FEW MEN COULD CLAIM IN THEIR YOUTH.

"MY FATHER IS MUCH YOUNGER THAN SMITH NOW, THRU CONSUMING ELIXIRS OF HIS OWN DEVISING-- BUT THERE IS A CRUELNESS IN HIS CAT-GREEN EYES FAR COLDER THAN DEATH, OR THE PALE BEYOND THE GRAVE.

"A CURIOUS PARADOX OF SORTS -- BUT NOT ONE TO DWELL UPON NOW.

"THUS PREOCCUPIED, I HAVE MISSED SOME SMALL BIT OF CONVERSATION, AND FROM THE EXPRESSION ON SMITH'S FACE, A MOST IMPORTANT ONE.



ARE YOU ENTIRELY CERTAIN, LU CHANG?

IT IS AS I HAVE SAID, NAYLAND SMITH--

--FU MANCHU HAS INDEED FORGED AN ALLIANCE WITH THE COSTUMED ONE CALLED SPIDER-MAN!

THIS VERY NIGHT, FU MANCHU SENDS THE WEB-SLINGER TO DESTROY THE POWER PLANT JUST BEYOND THE 59TH ST. BRIDGE-- FOR REASONS ONLY FU MANCHU MAY KNOW.

I TOOK MY LIFE INTO MY HANDS TO BRING YOU THIS INFORMATION-- YOU MUST BELIEVE IT--

--FOR I NOW FIND THAT LIFE SLIPPING BETWEEN MY FINGERS LIKE SO MANY GRAINS OF SANDSSSSSS



LU CHANG!?!

"IT IS BLACK JACK TARR, SMITH'S FAITHFUL AIDE-DE-CAMP, WHO FIRST PUTS VOICE TO THE WORDS.

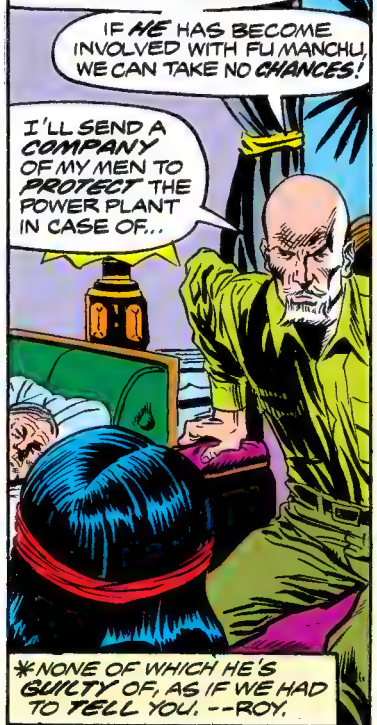


THE OLD MAN'S DEAD, SIR.

BUT WHAT DID HIS FINAL WORDS MEAN?

THEY MEAN POTENTIAL CATASTROPHE, SHANG-CHI.

I'VE HEARD OF THIS SPIDER-MAN. MY FRIENDS IN THE LOCAL CONSTABULARY INFORM ME HE IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH SEVERAL MURDERS! *

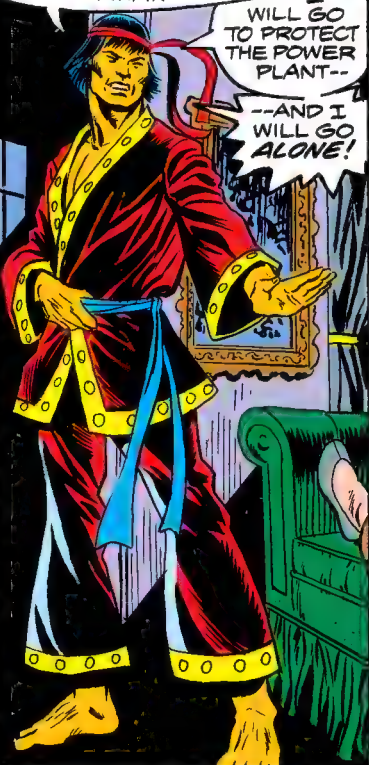


IF HE HAS BECOME INVOLVED WITH FU MANCHU, WE CAN TAKE NO CHANCES!

I'LL SEND A COMPANY OF MY MEN TO PROTECT THE POWER PLANT IN CASE OF..

*NONE OF WHICH HE'S GUILTY OF, AS IF WE HAD TO TELL YOU. --ROY.

NO, SIR DENIS. A FORCE OF SUCH SIZE WOULD SURELY FRIGHTEN SPIDER-MAN AWAY.



I WILL GO TO PROTECT THE POWER PLANT--

--AND I WILL GO ALONE!

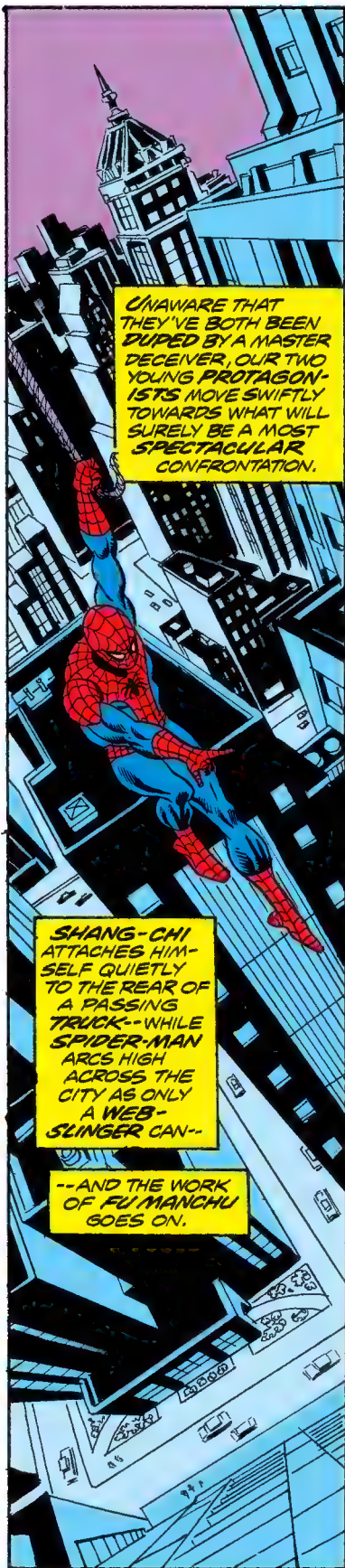
"SIR DENIS SAYS NOTHING MORE, MERELY NODS HIS HEAD IN SAD AGREEMENT.



"YET I CAN FEEL HIS EYES AND TARR'S BURNING SCARS OF UNCERTAINTY INTO MY BACK AS I WALK AWAY.

"AM I DOING THE CORRECT THING, THE VOICELESS QUESTIONS ASK.

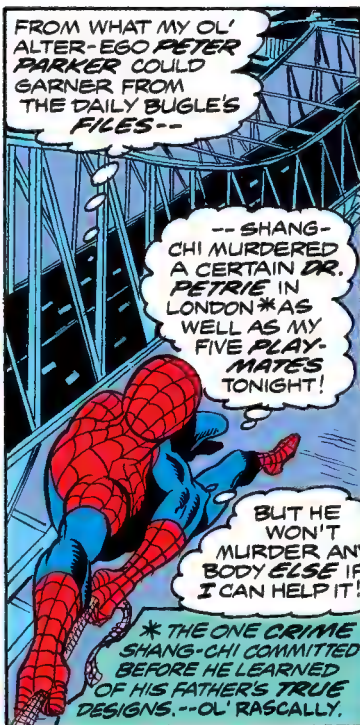
"NO MATTER. I AM DOING WHAT I MUST!"



UNAWARE THAT THEY'VE BOTH BEEN DUPED BY A MASTER DECEIVER, OUR TWO YOUNG PROTAGONISTS MOVE SWIFTLY TOWARDS WHAT WILL SURELY BE A MOST SPECTACULAR CONFRONTATION.

SHANG-CHI ATTACHES HIMSELF QUIETLY TO THE REAR OF A PASSING TRUCK--WHILE SPIDER-MAN ARCS HIGH ACROSS THE CITY AS ONLY A WEB-SLINGER CAN--

--AND THE WORK OF FU MANCHU GOES ON.



FROM WHAT MY OL' ALTER-EGO PETER PARKER COULD GARNER FROM THE DAILY BUGLE'S FILES--

-- SHANG-CHI MURDERED A CERTAIN DR. PETRIE IN LONDON *AS WELL AS MY FIVE PLAY-MATES TONIGHT!

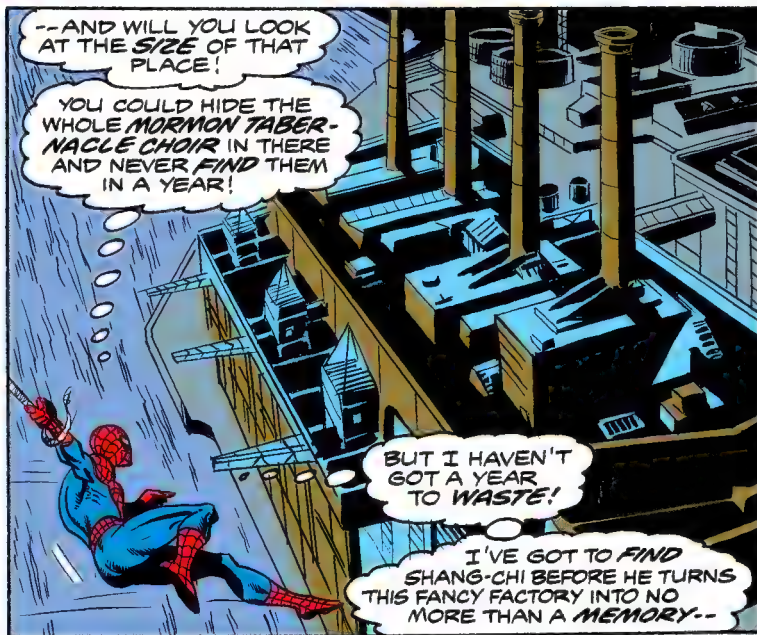
BUT HE WON'T MURDER ANY-BODY ELSE IF I CAN HELP IT!

* THE ONE CRIME SHANG-CHI COMMITTED BEFORE HE LEARNED OF HIS FATHER'S TRUE DESIGNS.--OL' RASCALLY.



WELL, I'VE CROSSED THE 54TH ST. BRIDGE-- AND I'M NOT FEELIN' GROOVY.

THERE'S THE POWER PLANT THAT HOMOCIDAL MANIAC PLANS TO ERASE--

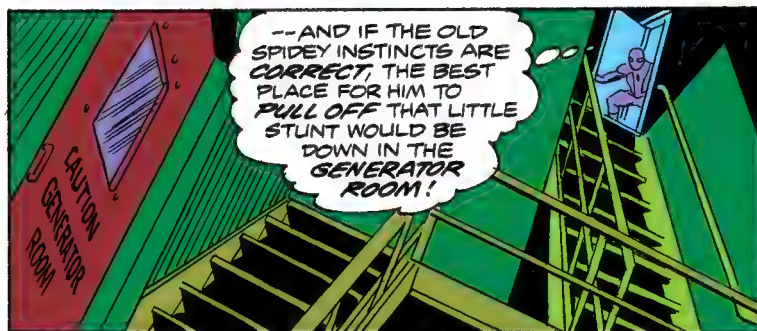


--AND WILL YOU LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT PLACE!

YOU COULD HIDE THE WHOLE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR IN THERE AND NEVER FIND THEM IN A YEAR!

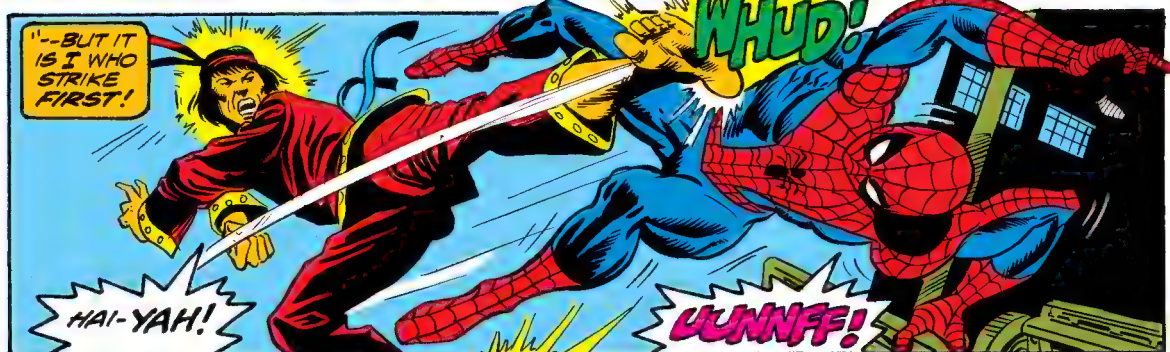
BUT I HAVEN'T GOT A YEAR TO WASTE!

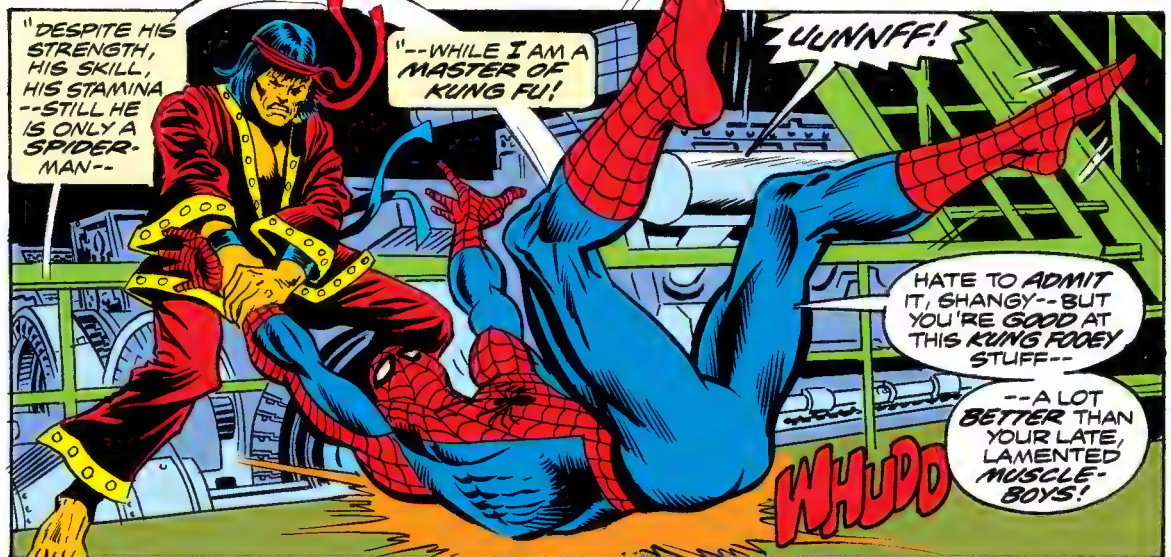
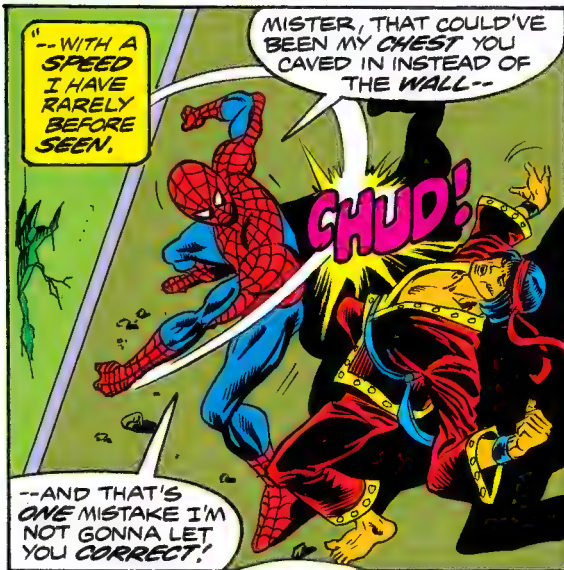
I'VE GOT TO FIND SHANG-CHI BEFORE HE TURNS THIS FANCY FACTORY INTO NO MORE THAN A MEMORY--

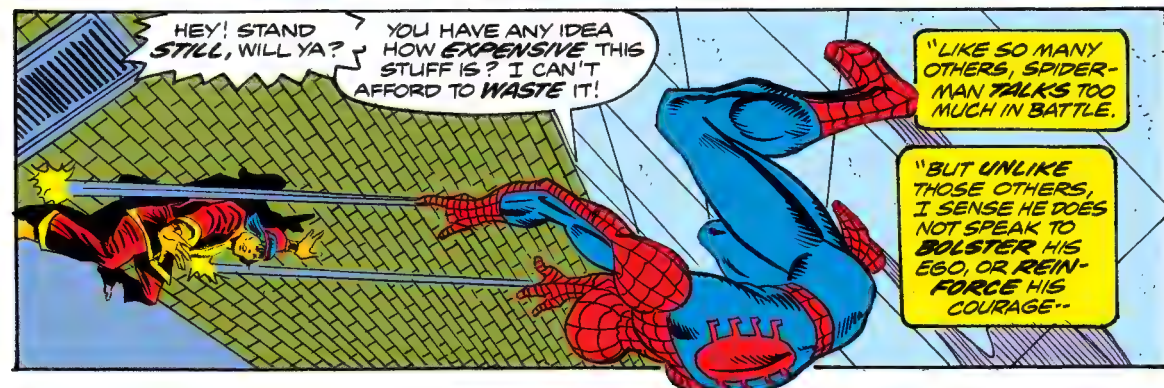
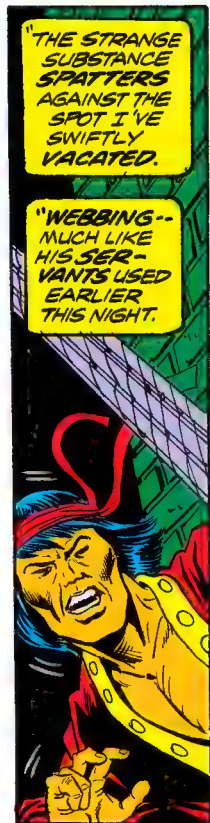
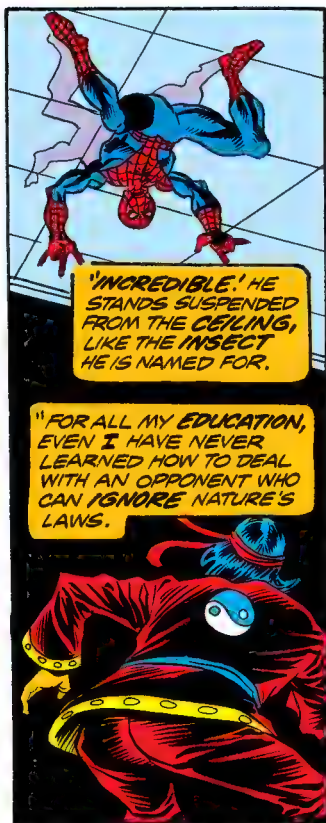
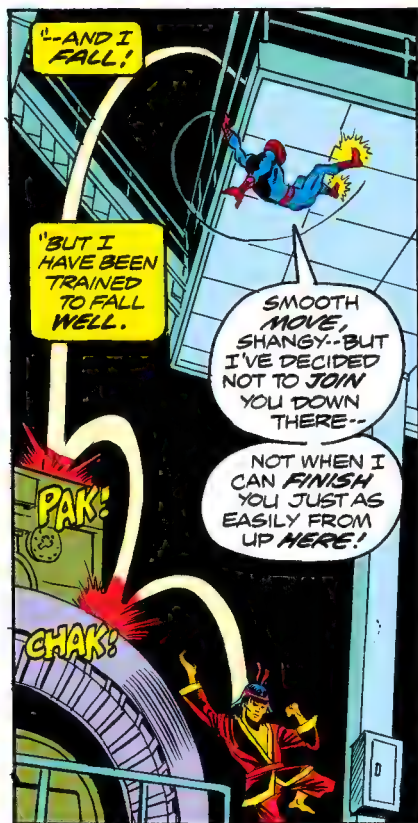
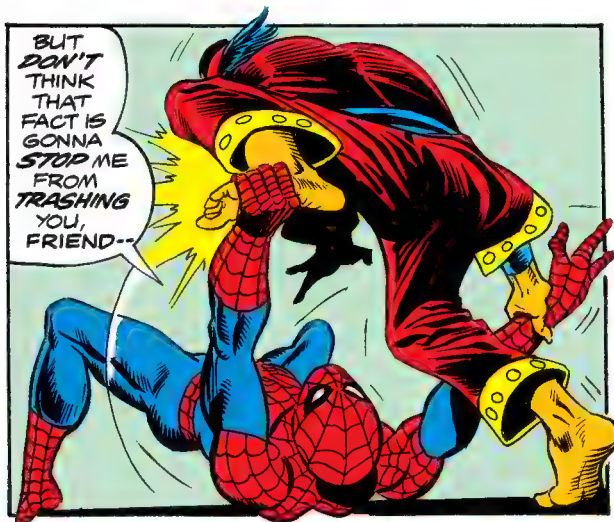


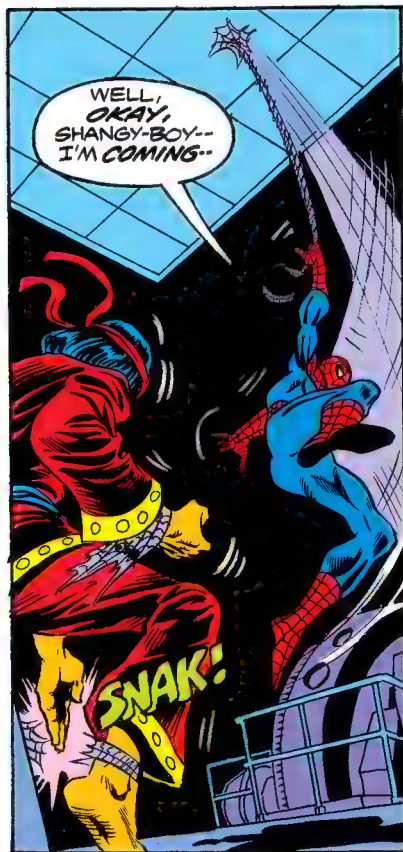
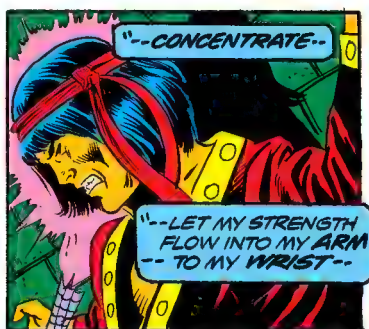
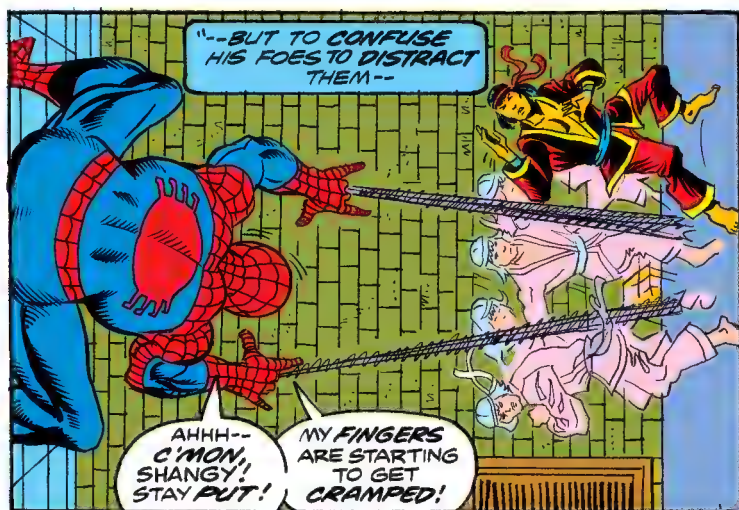
--AND IF THE OLD SPIDEY INSTINCTS ARE CORRECT, THE BEST PLACE FOR HIM TO PULL OFF THAT LITTLE STUNT WOULD BE DOWN IN THE GENERATOR ROOM!

CAUTION
GENERATOR ROOM











--BUT I'M COMING
ON MY OWN
TERMS!

"I REQUIRED
AN INSTANT
TO LONG TO
RELEASE
MYSELF,

"I FEEL THE RUSH OF
AIR FROM THE VENTIL-
ATION SHAFT BEHIND
ME, EVEN AS SPIDER-
MAN'S FEET DRIVE
INTO MY CHEST--

"--AND HIS MOMENTUM
CARRIES US THRU THE
PROTECTIVE GRATING--

OOPS!

KRANG!

"--AND DOWN
INTO THE
DARKNESS!

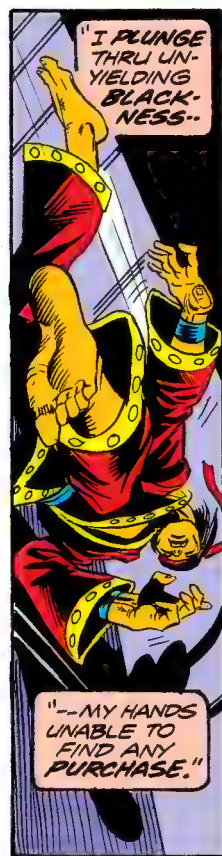
THERE SEEMS
NO END TO THE
PIT BELOW US,
SPIDER-MAN!

BUT IF I
AM TO PERISH,
I PERISH
GLADLY--

--KNOWING I HAVE
SAVED THIS COMPLEX
FROM DESTRUCTION
AT YOUR HANDS!

"BUT MY TRIUMPH IS SHORT-
LIVED, AS THE STEEL-
SMOOTH PASSAGEWAY
SUDDENLY DIVIDES--

"--AND SPIDER-MAN
AND I ABRUPTLY GO
OUR SEPERATE WAYS.

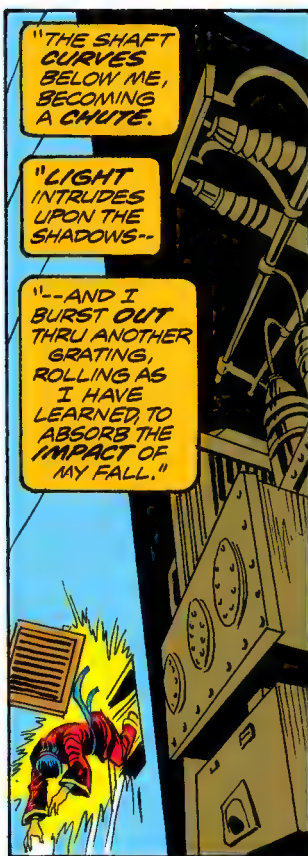


"I PLUNGE
THRU UN-
YIELDING
BLACK-
NESS--

"--MY HANDS
UNABLE TO
FIND ANY
PURCHASE."



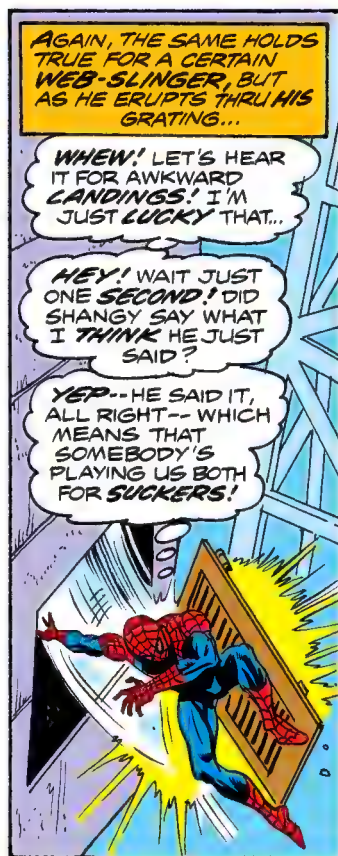
FOR THE
RECORD,
THE WALL-
CRAWLER
DOESN'T
FARE
MUCH
BETTER.



"THE SHAFT
CURVES
BELOW ME,
BECOMING
A CHUTE.

"LIGHT
INTRUDES
UPON THE
SHADOWS--

"--AND I
BURST OUT
THRU ANOTHER
GRATING,
ROLLING AS
I HAVE
LEARNED TO
ABSORB THE
IMPACT OF
MY FALL."

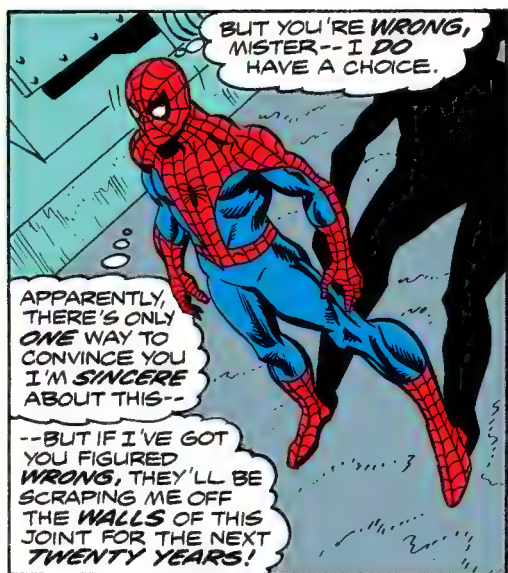
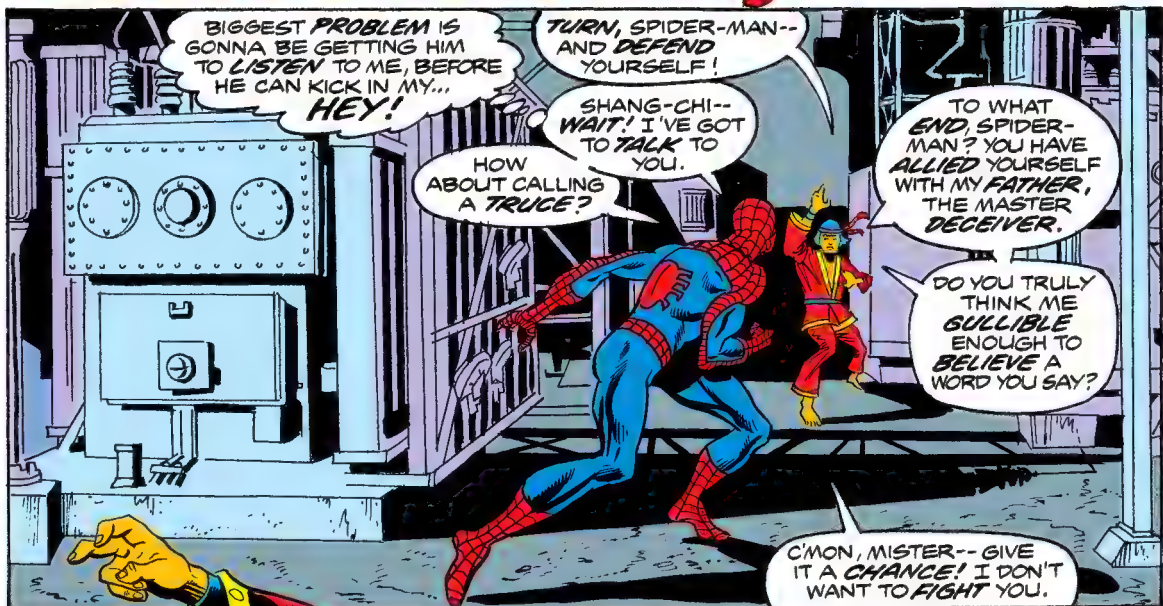
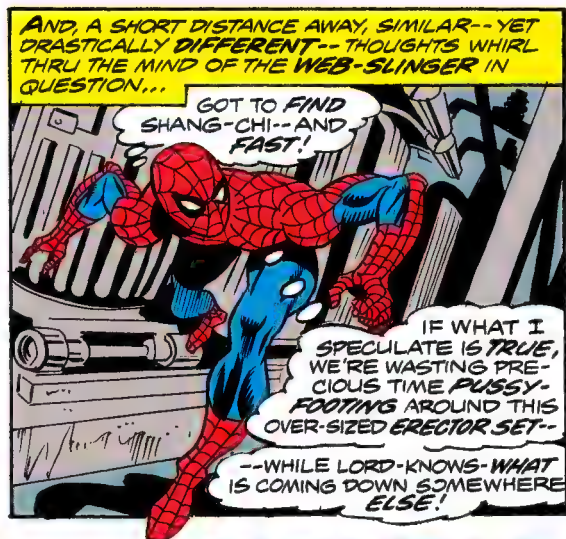


AGAIN, THE SAME HOLDS
TRUE FOR A CERTAIN
WEB-SLINGER, BUT
AS HE ERUPTS THRU HIS
GRATING...

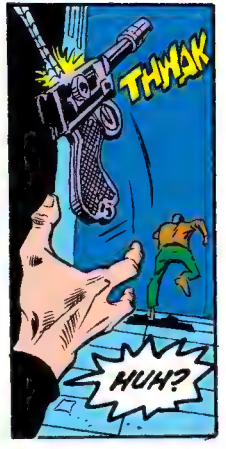
WHEW! LET'S HEAR
IT FOR AWKWARD
LANDINGS! I'M
JUST LUCKY THAT...

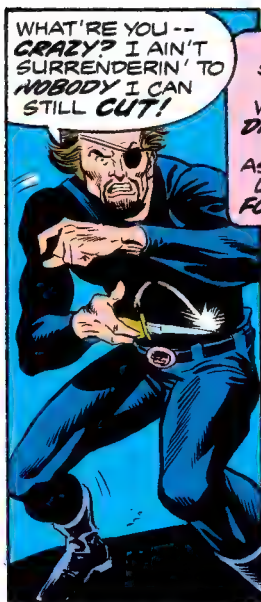
HEY! WAIT JUST
ONE SECOND! DID
SHANGY SAY WHAT
I THINK HE JUST
SAID?

YEP--HE SAID IT,
ALL RIGHT-- WHICH
MEANS THAT
SOMEBODY'S
PLAYING US BOTH
FOR SUCKERS!









"HIS SINGLE EYE WILDLY DILATED, THE ASSASSIN LUNGES FORWARD."

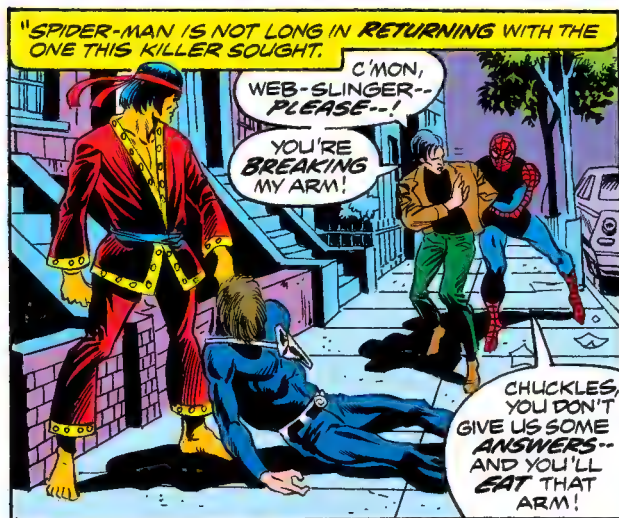


"I LEAP ABOVE HIS SAVAGE THRUST--"



"--AND ONE WELL-PLACED BLOW RENDERS BOTH HIS EYES SIGHTLESS--"

"--AS HE TOPPLES INTO THE BLACK WELL OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS."



"C'MON, WEB-SLINGER-- PLEASE--!"

"YOU'RE BREAKING MY ARM!"

"CHUCKLES, YOU DON'T GIVE US SOME ANSWERS-- AND YOU'LL EAT THAT ARM!"

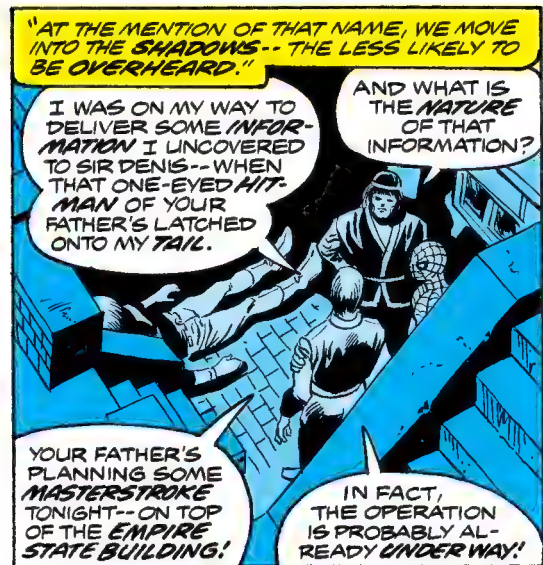


"FORGET IT, WEB-HEAD! YOU'RE NOT GETTING A WORD OUT OF-- HUH?"

"IT IS. SHOULD I KNOW YOU?"

"SHANG-CHI? IS IT YOU?"

"I'LL SAY YOU SHOULD! I'M WORKING FOR SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH!"



"AT THE MENTION OF THAT NAME, WE MOVE INTO THE SHADOWS-- THE LESS LIKELY TO BE OVERHEARD."

"I WAS ON MY WAY TO DELIVER SOME INFORMATION I UNCOVERED TO SIR DENIS-- WHEN THAT ONE-EYED HIT-MAN OF YOUR FATHER'S LATCHED ONTO MY TAIL."

"AND WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THAT INFORMATION?"

"YOUR FATHER'S PLANNING SOME MASTERSTROKE TONIGHT-- ON TOP OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!"

"IN FACT, THE OPERATION IS PROBABLY ALREADY UNDER WAY!"



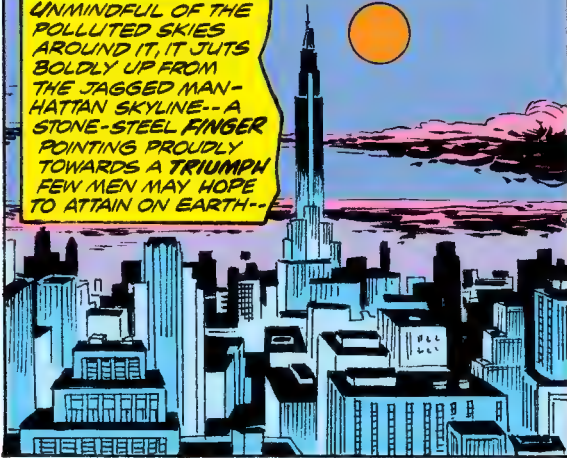
"THEN CONTINUE YOUR MISSION. INFORM SIR DENIS OF WHAT YOU'VE JUST TOLD US-- AND TELL HIM WE WILL MEET HIM THERE."

"GOT YA, PAL. GOOD LUCK TO YA."

"THANK YOU, MY FRIEND. I PRAY WE SHALL NOT NEED IT."

THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING: UNTIL RECENTLY, THE TALLEST BUILDING IN THE WORLD.

UNMINDFUL OF THE POLLUTED SKIES AROUND IT, IT JUTS BOLDLY UP FROM THE JAGGED MANHATTAN SKYLINE-- A STONE-STEEL FINGER POINTING PROUDLY TOWARDS A TRIUMPH FEW MEN MAY HOPE TO ATTAIN ON EARTH--

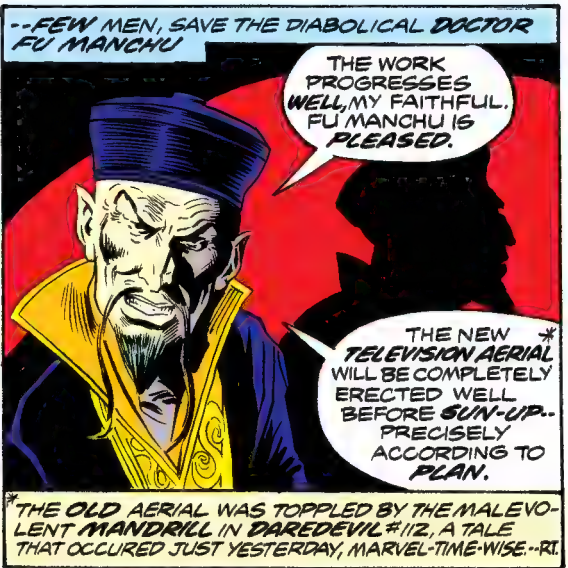


--FEW MEN, SAVE THE DIABOLICAL DOCTOR FU MANCHU

THE WORK PROGRESSES WELL, MY FAITHFUL. FU MANCHU IS PLEASED.

THE NEW TELEVISION AERIAL WILL BE COMPLETELY ERECTED WELL BEFORE SUN-UP. PRECISELY ACCORDING TO PLAN.

*THE OLD AERIAL WAS TOPPLED BY THE MALEVOLENT MANDRILL IN DAREDEVIL #112, A TALE THAT OCCURED JUST YESTERDAY, MARVEL-TIME-WISE--RT.



ONCE ACTIVATED, THIS NEW AERIAL WILL TRANSMIT THE SAME TELEVISION SIGNALS--

--PLUS A SPECIAL SUB-LIMINAL MIND-CONTROL RADIATION, THAT WILL SOON SUBJUGATE THE ENTIRE EASTERN UNITED STATES TO MY WILL--

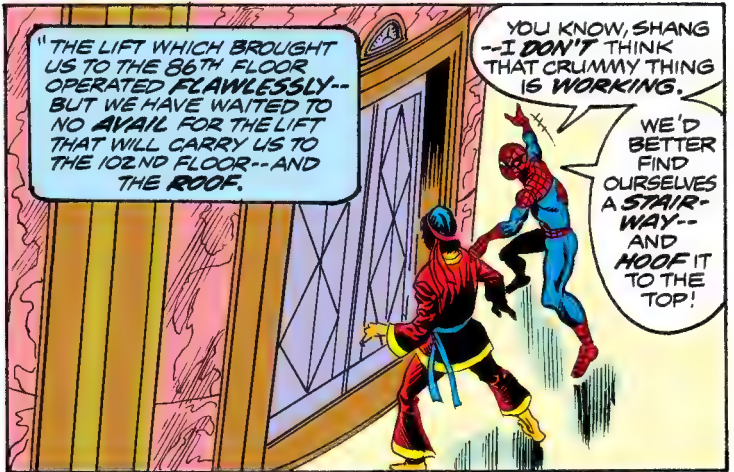
--AND THIS TIME, THERE IS NO SHANG-CHI ABOUT TO THWART ME.



"THE LIFT WHICH BROUGHT US TO THE 86TH FLOOR OPERATED FLAWLESSLY-- BUT WE HAVE WAITED TO NO AVAIL FOR THE LIFT THAT WILL CARRY US TO THE 102ND FLOOR--AND THE ROOF.

YOU KNOW, SHANG --I DON'T THINK THAT CRUMMY THING IS WORKING.

WE'D BETTER FIND OURSELVES A STAIR-WAY-- AND HOOF IT TO THE TOP!



THIS DELAY IS MY FAULT, SPIDER-MAN. I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED MY FATHER WOULD TAKE STEPS TO IMPEDE THE PROGRESS OF UNWANTED GUESTS.

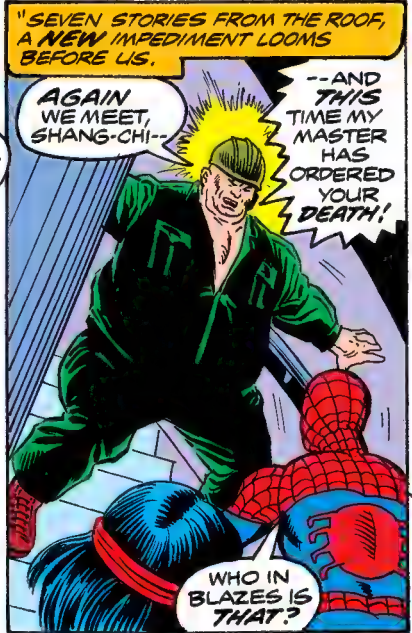
SO WE'RE TAKING OUR OWN STEPS, SHANG--TWO AT A TIME!



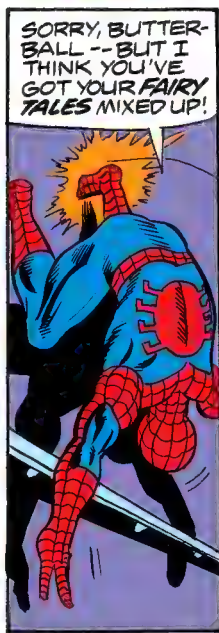
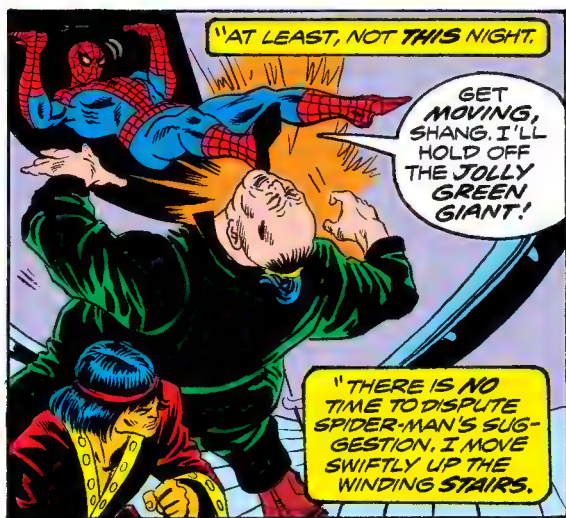
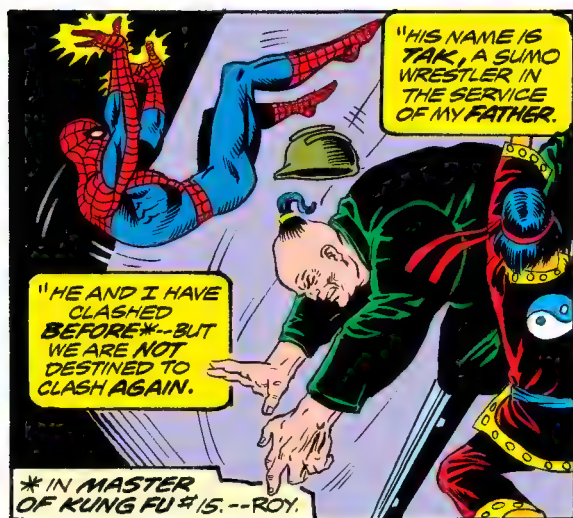
"SEVEN STORIES FROM THE ROOF, A NEW IMPEDIMENT LOOMS BEFORE US.

AGAIN WE MEET, SHANG-CHI--

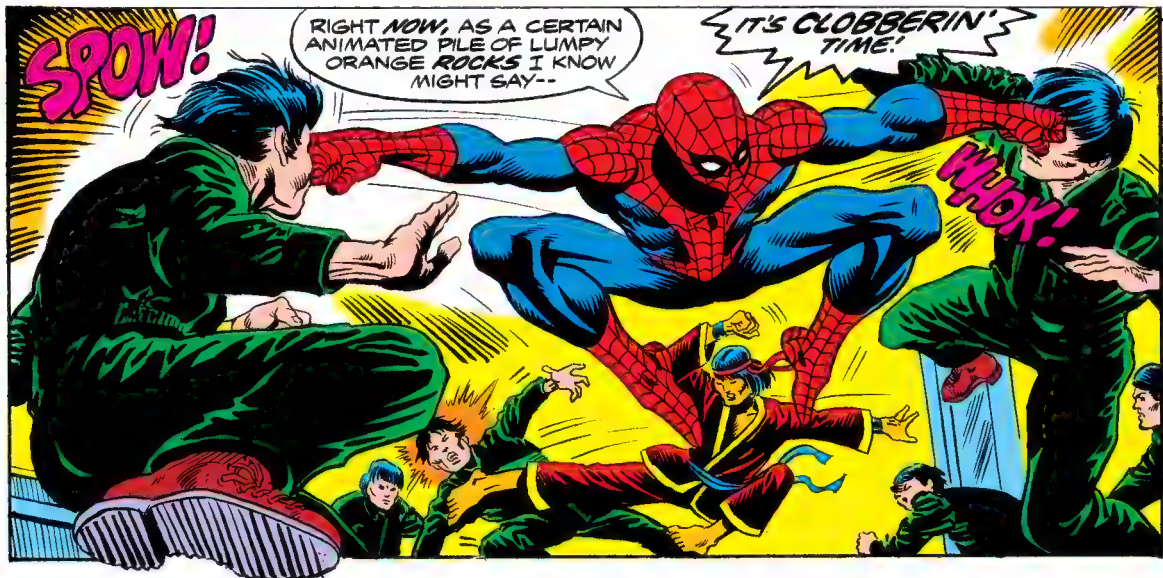
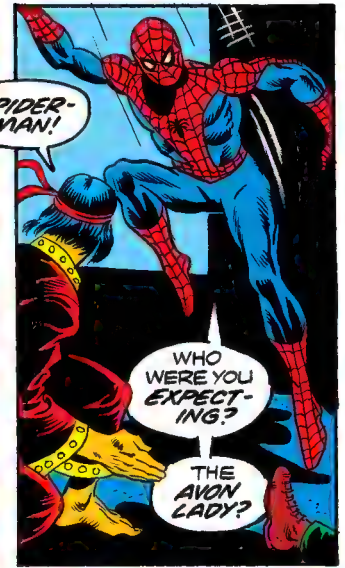
--AND THIS TIME MY MASTER HAS ORDERED YOUR DEATH!



WHO IN BLAZES IS THAT?









"MY FATHER'S MINIONS SEEM AS PLENTIFUL AS THE FALLEN AUTUMN LEAVES, BUT STILL SPIDER-MAN AND I STAND OUR GROUND--

"--UNTIL A BLINDING BLANKET OF FOG DROPS SUDDENLY FROM ABOVE US.

"MAN-MADE FOG.

WHUMP!

GAS! WE ARE BESIEGED!



"--AND AT THE CONTROLS OF THE FOREMOST AIRCRAFT, THE IMPOSING FIGURE OF BLACK JACK TARR!

ALL RIGHT, MATES--THAT'S THEM RIGHT BELOW US!

BETTER COME IN FAST--AND COME IN HARD!



"INSTINCTIVELY, I ADJUST MY BREATHING TO COMPENSATE FOR THE SMOTHERING FUMES-- THEN I TURN MY GAZE SKYWARD.

HEY--EITHER SOMEBODY'S TOSSING GAS-BOMBS AT US--OR THE AIR POLLUTION HAS FINALLY GOTTEN OUT OF HAND!

ANY IDEA WHAT'S UP, SHANG?

WHUMP!

MY VISION IS UNIMPAIRED BY THE SMOKE, SPIDER-MAN. I CAN SEE PRECISELY WHAT IS UP.

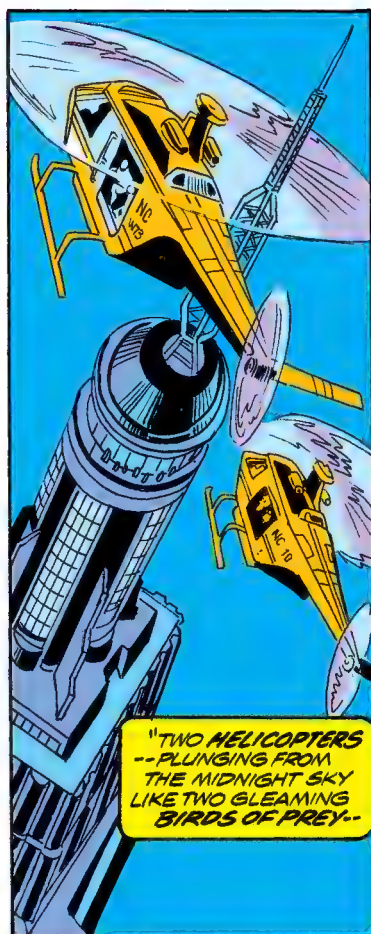


"THE AIR IS RENT WITH THE FURIOUS SOUND OF MACHINE-GUN FIRE AS THE HELICOPTERS SWOOP LOW OVER THE OBSERVATION PLATFORM.

OKAY, YOU BLOKES--LET'S HIT 'EM--

FOR SIR DENIS--AND FOR DR. PETRIE, LORD REST HIM!

"BLACK JACK TARR IS A MAN WITH A MISSION.



"TWO HELICOPTERS--PLUNGING FROM THE MIDNIGHT SKY LIKE TWO GLEAMING BIRDS OF PREY--



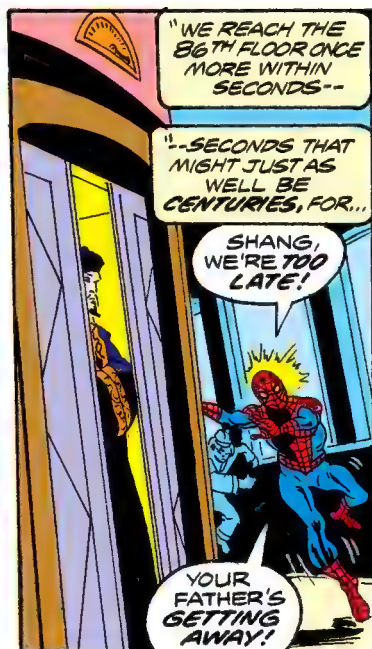
"WITHIN MOMENTS, MY FATHER'S SERVANTS ARE IN ROUT--AND TARR STANDS GRIMLY BESIDE US.

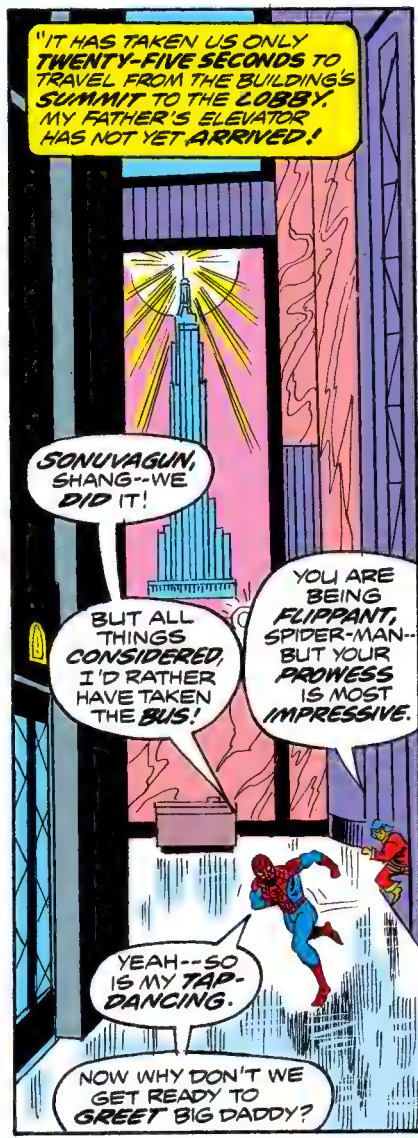
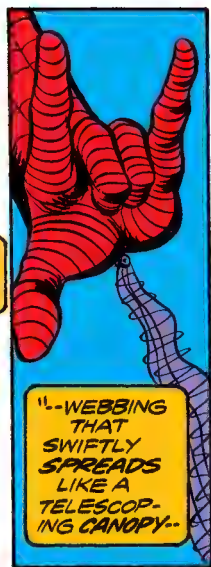
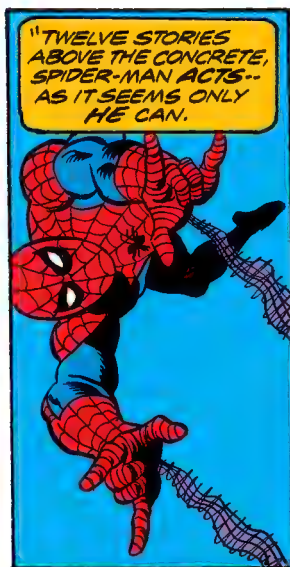
WELL, CHINAMAN--WE'VE CLEANED UP YOUR FATHER'S MEN IN... **BLIMEY!** WHERE IS YOUR FATHER?

H-H-E'S GONE--ESCAPED DURING THE CONFUSION.

AND THE ONLY WAY TO GO FROM HERE, SHANG, IS--DOWN!

C'MON! WE CAN STILL NAB HIM!



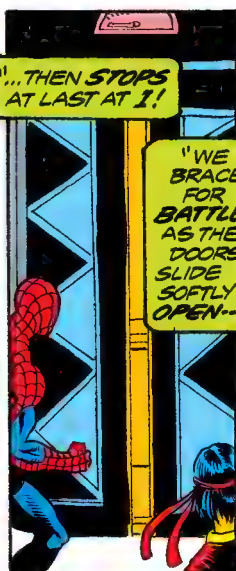




"THE INDICATOR ARROW PASSES 5...4...3...2..."

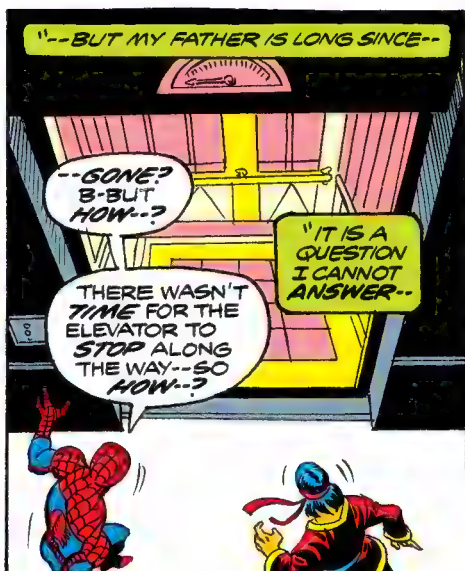
MY FATHER APPROACHES, SPIDER-MAN.

PREPARE YOURSELF.



"...THEN STOPS AT LAST AT I!"

"WE BRACE FOR BATTLE AS THE DOORS SLIDE SOFTLY OPEN--"



"--BUT MY FATHER IS LONG SINCE--"

--GONE? B-BUT HOW--?

"IT IS A QUESTION I CANNOT ANSWER--"

THERE WASN'T TIME FOR THE ELEVATOR TO STOP ALONG THE WAY--SO HOW--?



"--THUS WE STAND IN MUTE CONFUSION AS SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH HOBBLERES TO OUR SIDE."

SHANG-CHI! YOUR FATHER--IS HE--?

HE'S VANISHED, FRIEND-- RIGHT OUT OF A NON-STOP EXPRESS!

I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED AS MUCH. SUCH AS ALWAYS BEEN THE WAY OF DOCTOR FU MANCHU!



DOCTOR FU MAN-- WHO?

HEY, YOU'RE PUTTING ME ON RIGHT? I MEAN-- FU MAN-CHU IS ONLY A FICTIONAL CHARACTER...

...ISN'T HE?

IF HE IS, SPIDER-MAN-- THEN I AM FICTION AS WELL--

--FOR I AM HIS SON!



I SUGGEST YOU PONDER THIS NIGHT'S ADVENTURE BEFORE YOU DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS, MY FRIEND.

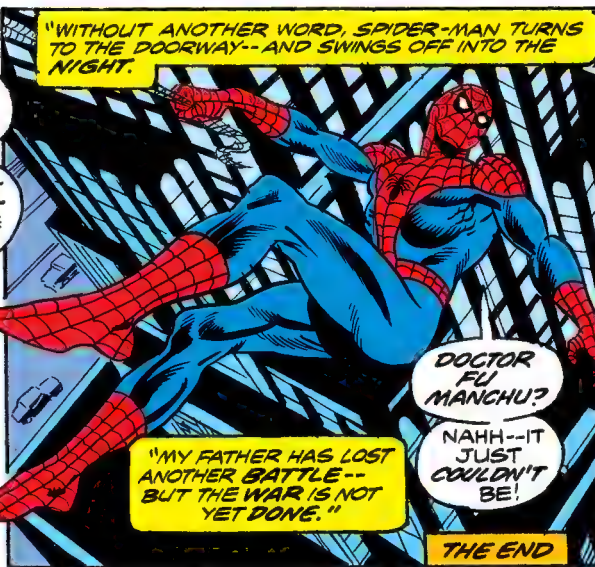
I'LL DO THAT, SHANG-- BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE...UH-OH.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE POLICE SIRENS HEADING THIS WAY!

INDEED, SPIDER-MAN. I SUMMONED THEM BEFORE WE JOINED YOU.

THEN I GUESS THAT'S MY CUE TO BUZZ OFF. THE BOYS IN BLUE AND I AREN'T EXACTLY ON SPEAKING TERMS.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, SHANG.



"WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, SPIDER-MAN TURNS TO THE DOORWAY--AND SWINGS OFF INTO THE NIGHT."

DOCTOR FU MANCHU?

NAHH--IT JUST COULDN'T BE!

"MY FATHER HAS LOST ANOTHER BATTLE-- BUT THE WAR IS NOT YET DONE."

THE END

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



25¢
E

22
NOV
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU



THE FORTUNE COOKIE
SAYS:
DEATH!

MARTIAL
ARTS
ACTION
IN THE MIND-
SHATTERING
MARVEL
MANNER!

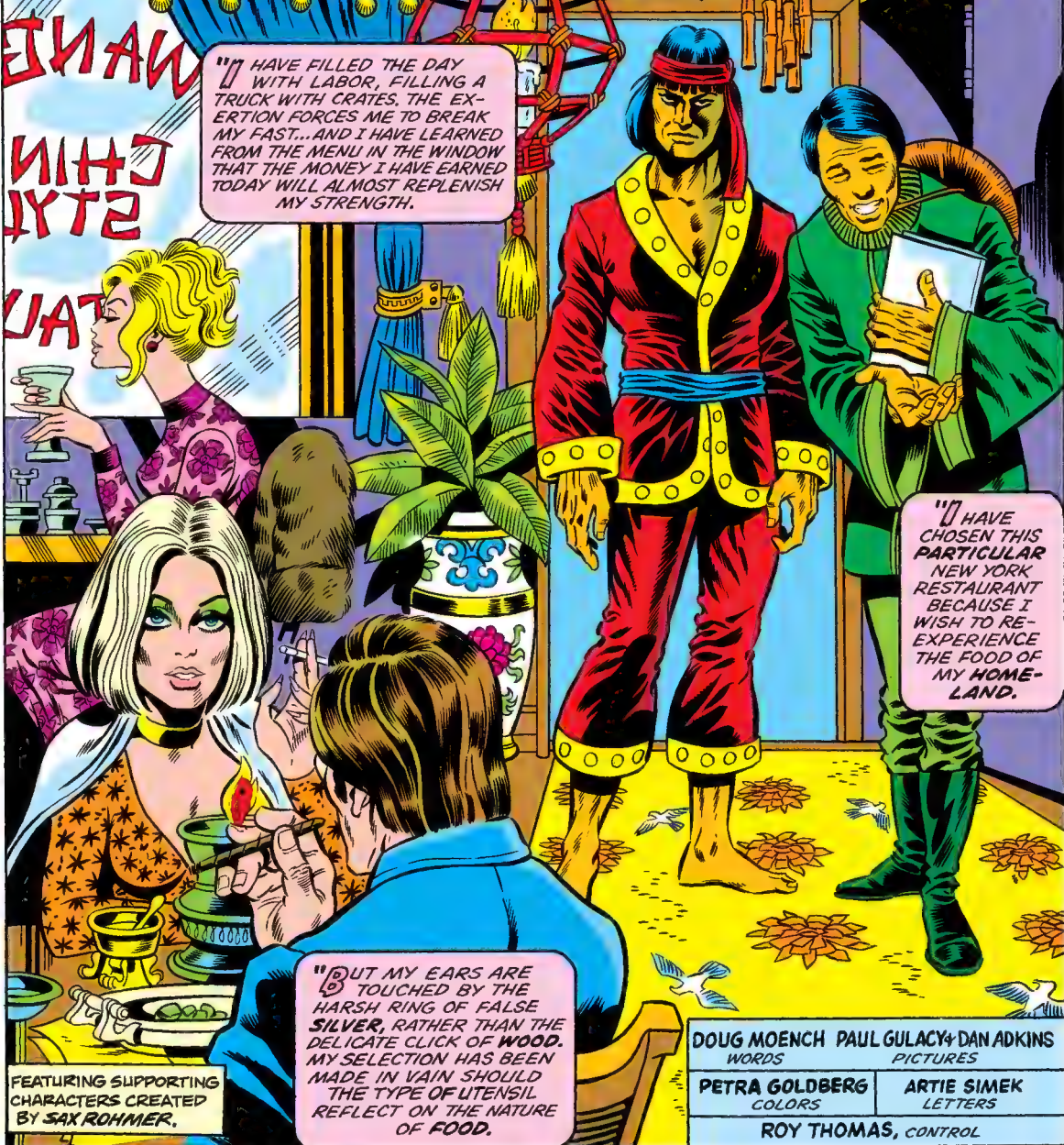


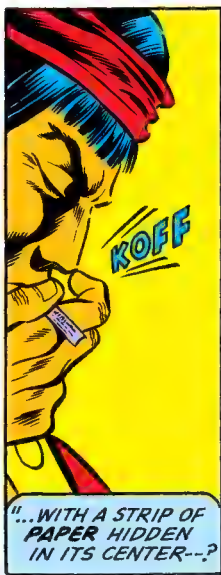
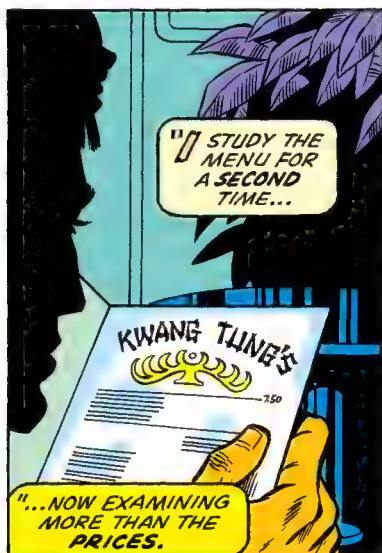
"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China, retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kungfu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

A FORTUNE OF DEATH!



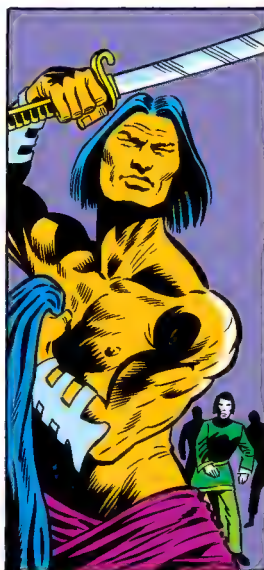




"I HURL MY BODY AWAY FROM THE SPLIT TABLE..."



"...AND INTO THE STANCE OF--"

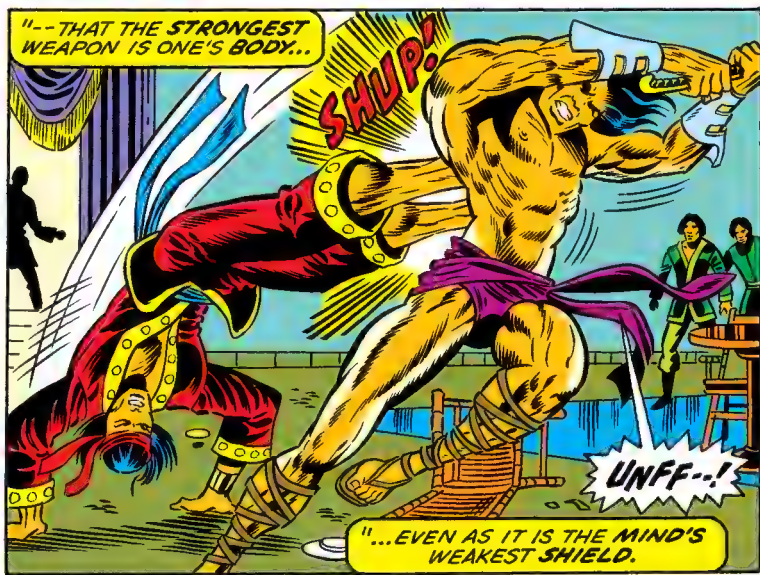
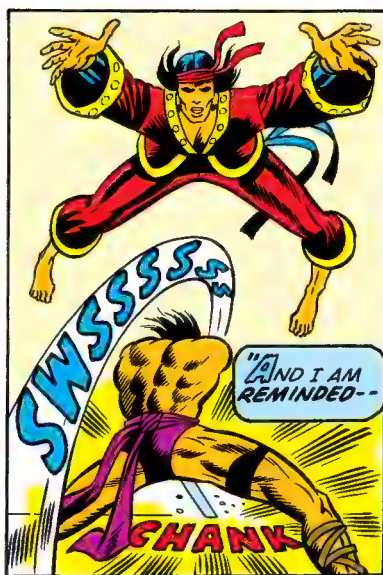
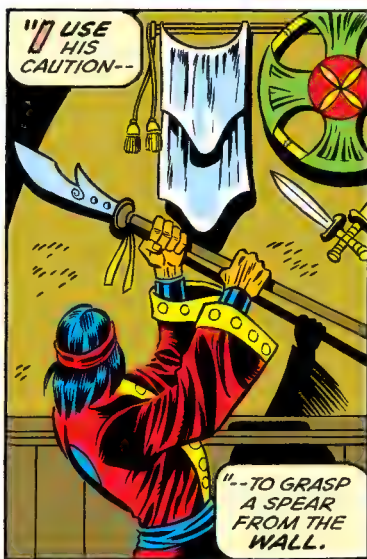


"--DEFENSE."



"MY FOE HAS NO FURTHER USE FOR THE CONCEALMENT OF A ROBE."

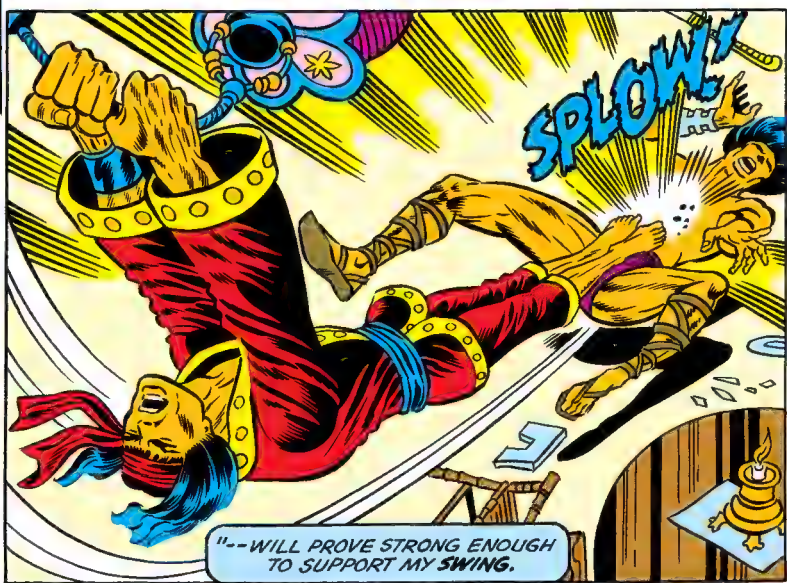
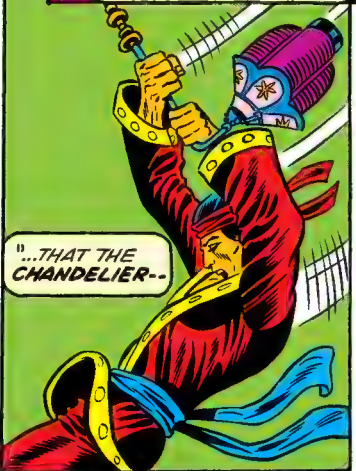




"KNIVES, USED FOR THE CARVING OF COOKED FLESH..."

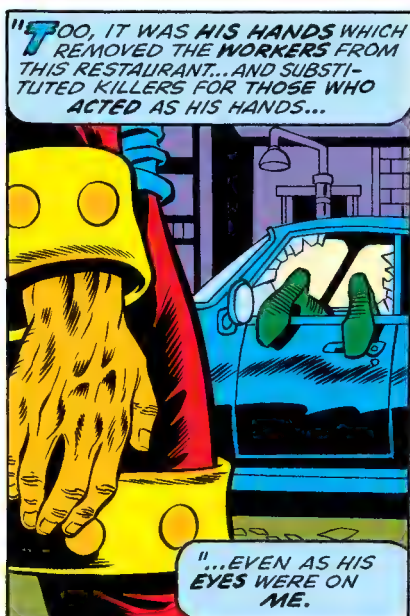
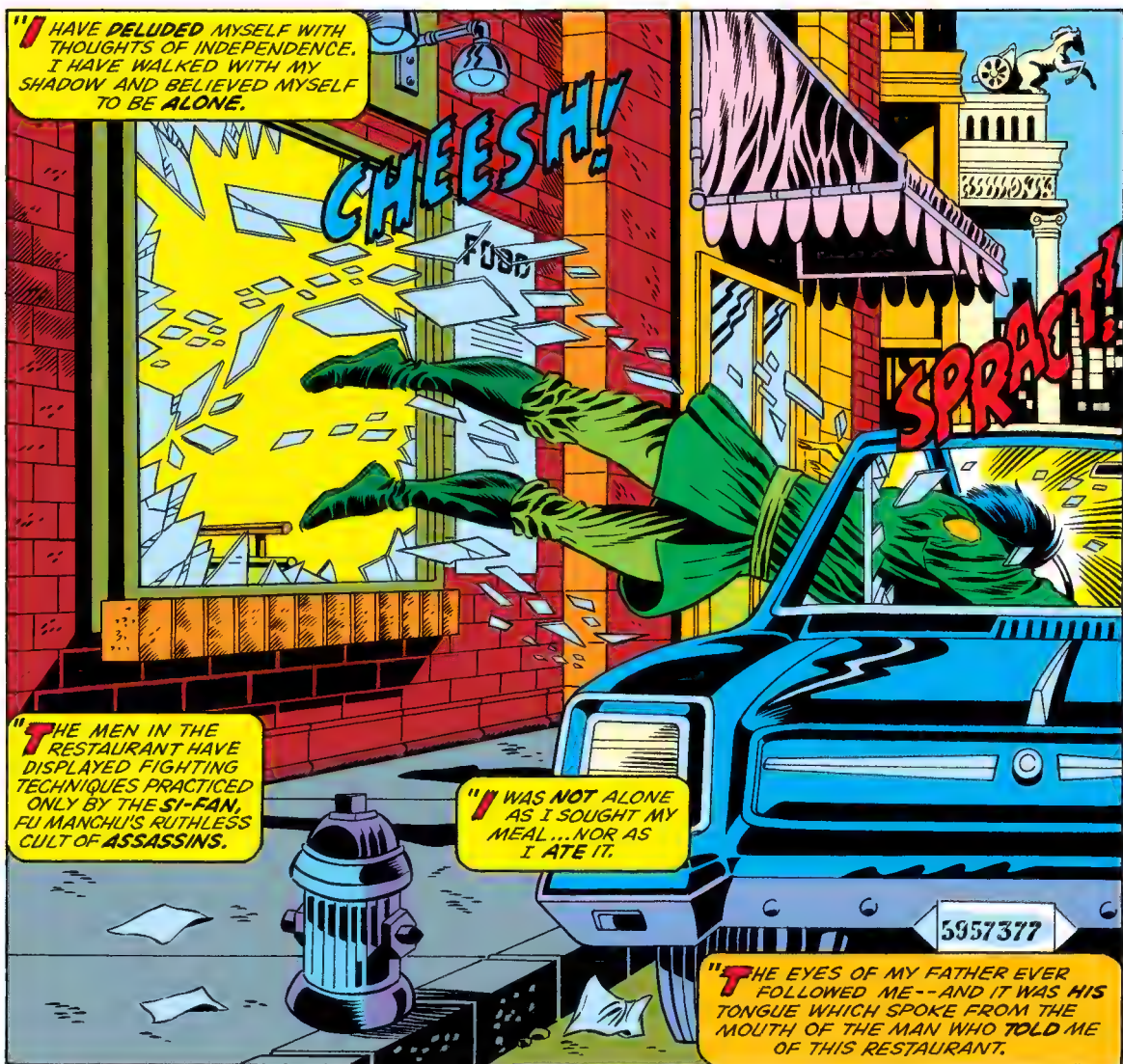


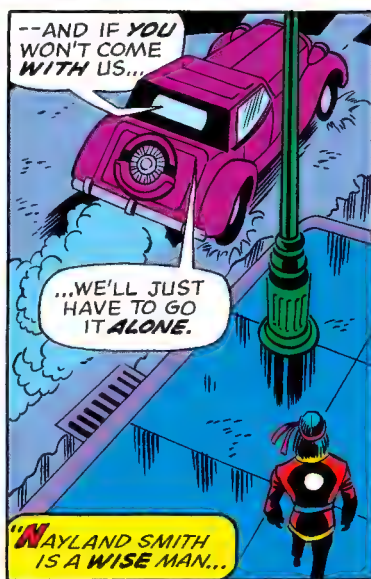
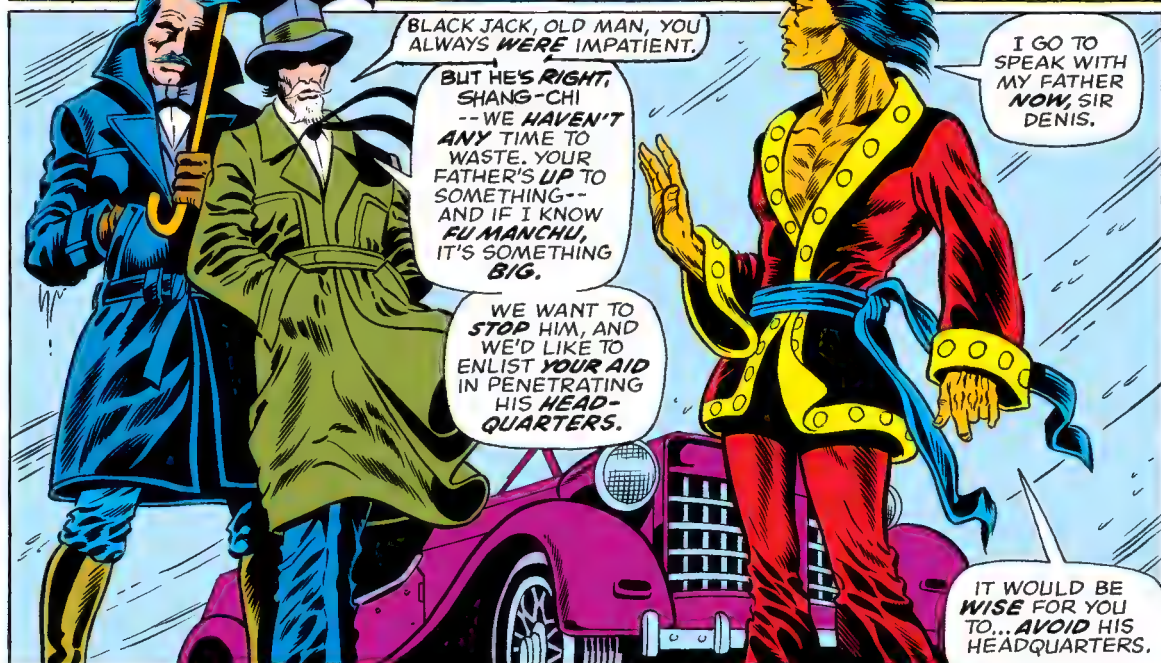
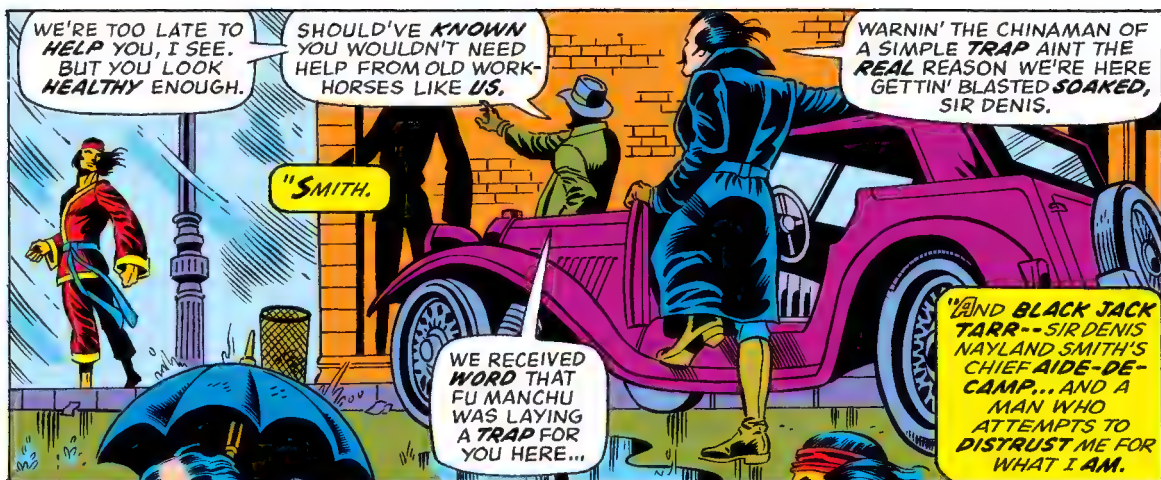
"...SHORTER THAN THE BLADE RESERVED FOR LIVING FLESH."

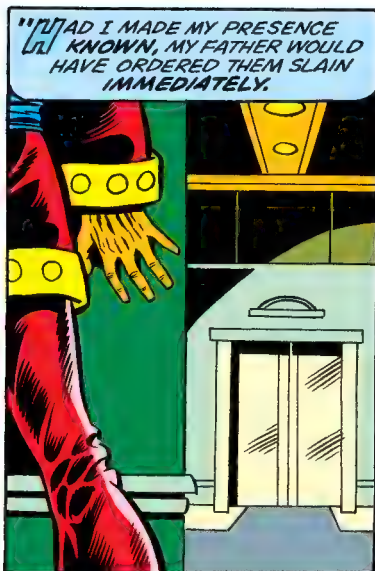


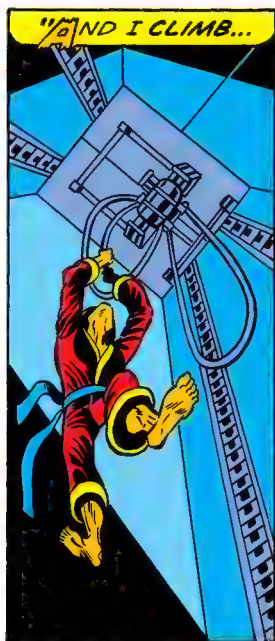












"AND I CLIMB...



"...TO THE ELEVATOR'S FLOOR.

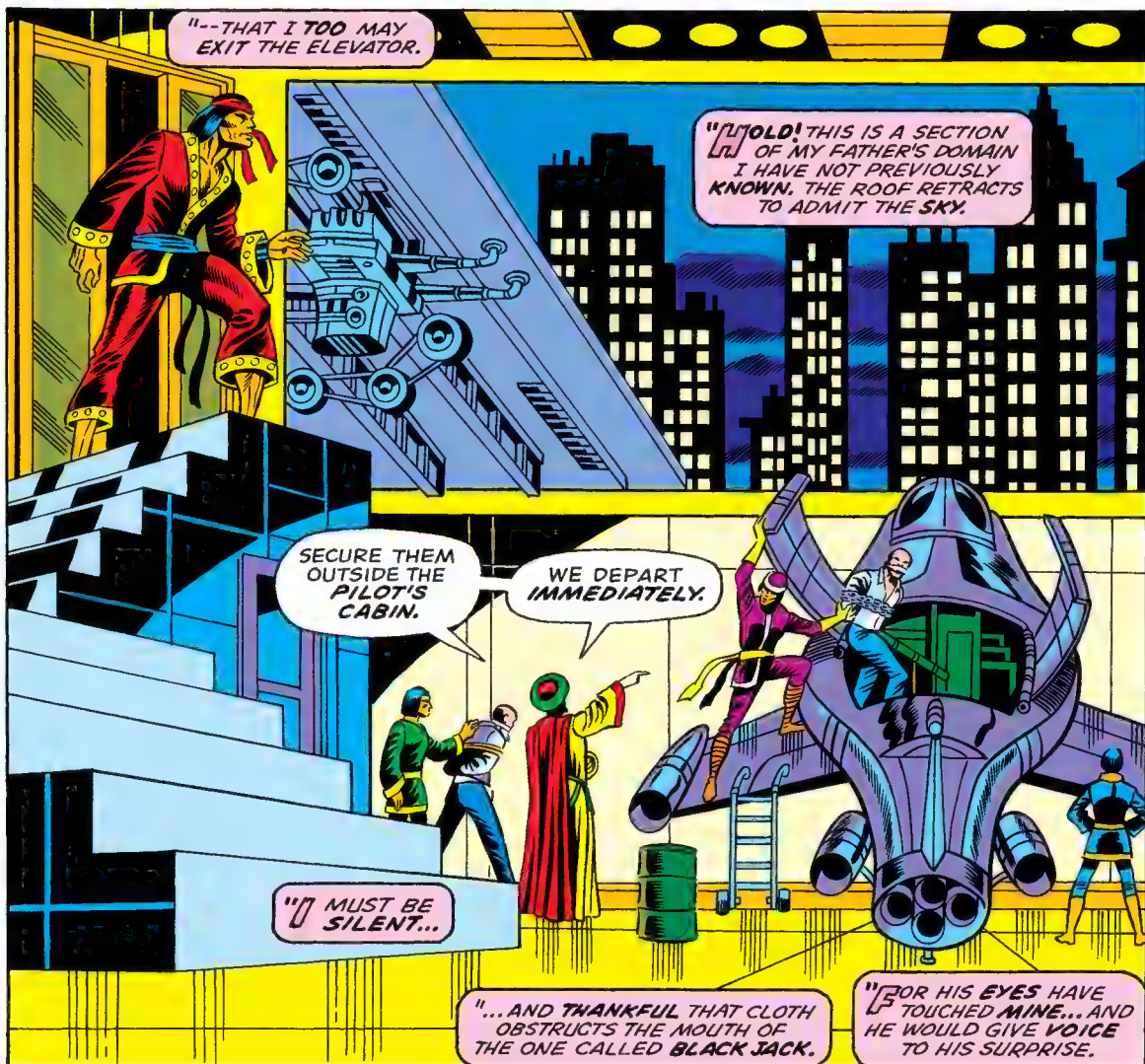


"THE ABSENCE OF SOUND--



"--INFORMS ME THAT THEY HAVE LEFT THE ELEVATOR.

THIS BUTTON OPENS THE DOORS--



"--THAT I TOO MAY EXIT THE ELEVATOR.

"TOLD! THIS IS A SECTION OF MY FATHER'S DOMAIN I HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN. THE ROOF RETRACTS TO ADMIT THE SKY.

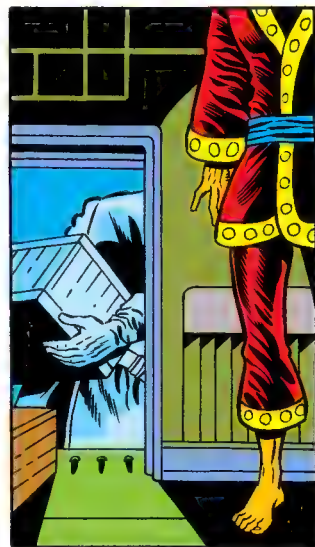
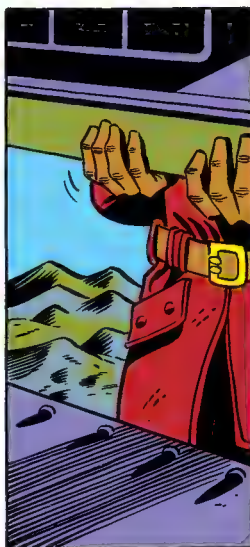
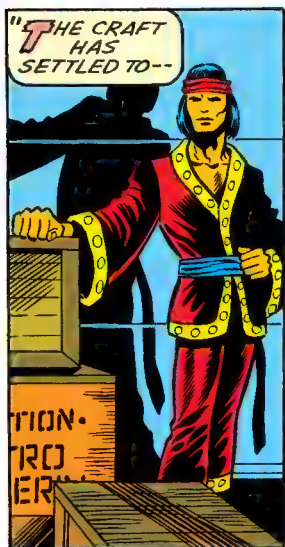
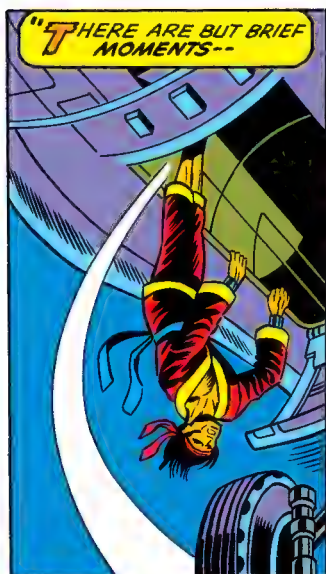
SECURE THEM OUTSIDE THE PILOT'S CABIN.

WE DEPART IMMEDIATELY.

"I MUST BE SILENT...

"...AND THANKFUL THAT CLOTH OBSTRUCTS THE MOUTH OF THE ONE CALLED BLACK JACK.

"FOR HIS EYES HAVE TOUCHED MINE... AND HE WOULD GIVE VOICE TO HIS SURPRISE.





"I DO NOT KNOW WHY MY FATHER HAS CHOSEN THIS CAVERN AS THE SITE FOR THE DETONATION OF HIS EXPLO-SIVES..."



IT IS A MYSTERY TO ME, SMITH, AS TO HOW YOU HAVE MANAGED SO OFTEN AND SO FAR IN ADVANCE TO LEARN OF MY PLANS. BUT YOU HAVE PRIED INTO MY AFFAIRS FOR THE FINAL TIME.

FOR, WHAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN A MERE DALLIANCE-- A SIMPLE SYMBOLIC VICTORY--HAS NOW TAKEN ON ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANCE BY SERVING AS THE MEANS TO EXECUTE YOU.

"I KNOW ONLY THAT HE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DETONATE THEM ...WHILE SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH AND BLACK JACK TARR REMAIN HELPLESS IN THEIR MIDST.



"I MUST ACT..."



AIIII...!!

"...AS DIRECTLY AS POSSIBLE.

UNFFF...!!



STOP HIM!! STOP HIM FROM REACHING THE--



--EXPLOSIVES!



"MY FATHER HAS BETRAYED NO SURPRISE.

"BUT WHETHER HE HAS EXPECTED MY PRESENCE OR NOT... HIS SI-FAN ARE UNDENIABLY PREPARED FOR IT.



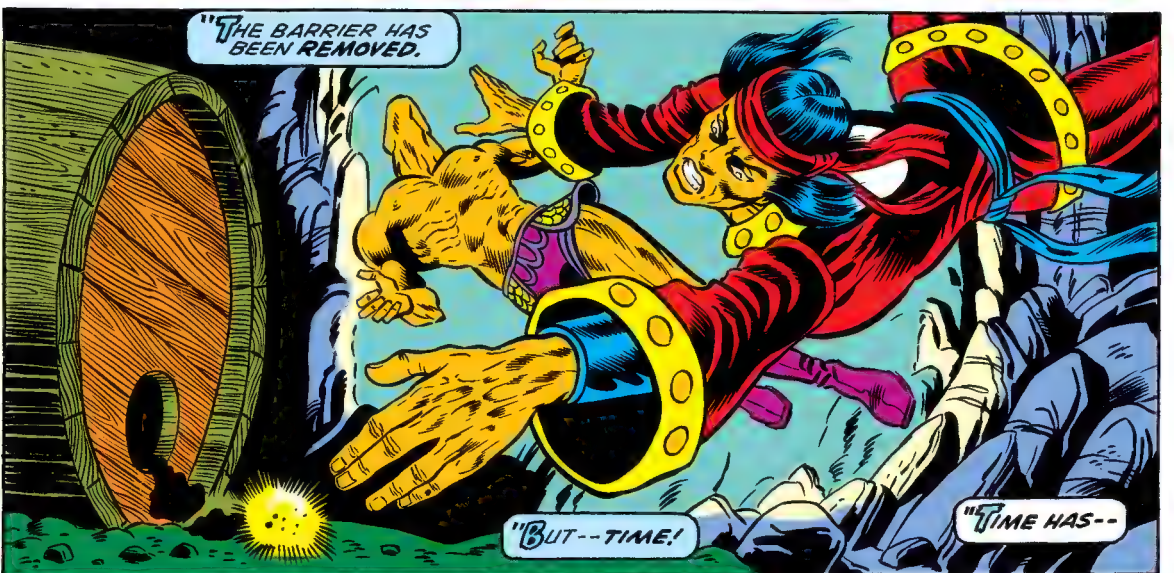
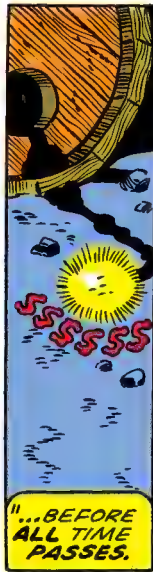
"TIME...

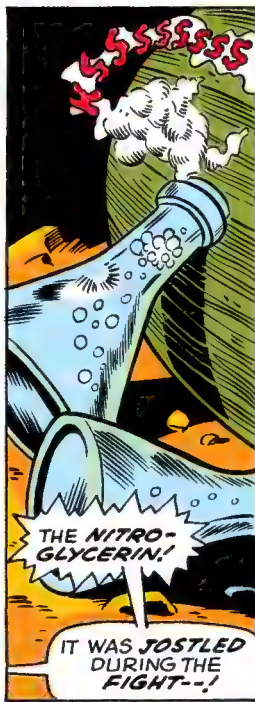
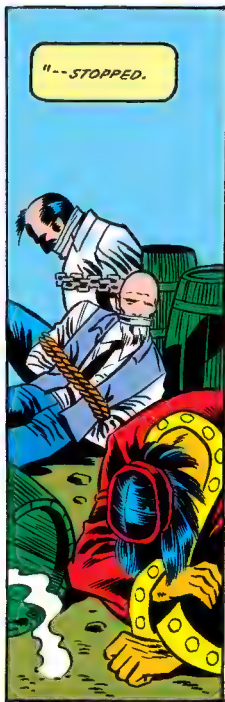


...PASSES.

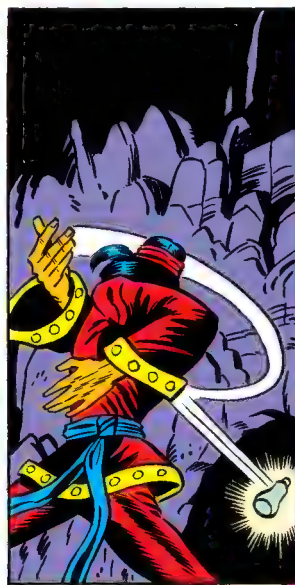


"I MUST USE THE INSTRUMENTS OF THEIR OWN PREPARATION--





"I HOLD THE SOLUTION FAR FROM MY HEART. TIME AGAIN RACES... AND I FEAR I MAY NOT OUTRUN IT TO THE ENTRANCE OF THIS CAVERN. THUS, I DIRECT MYSELF IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION--"



"--TOWARD THE CAVERN MOUTH AHEAD, WHICH OPENS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS MOUNTAIN. I HURL THE SOLUTION FROM ME..."

"AND--"





NEXT ISSUE: SHANG-CHI PENETRATES THE HIDDEN DEPTHS OF SOUTH AMERICA TO BRAVE... **The RIVER of DEATH!**

GIANT-SIZE MASTER
OF KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



2 DEC
02927

50¢
©

68 BIG PAGES

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU™

ALL-
NEW!

DEATH-TRAP
FOR SHANG-CHI!



MARTIAL ARTS MAYHEM™
MIGHTY MARVEL MAGIC!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China, retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my name."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

DOUG MOENCH
STORY

PAUL GULACY
ART

JACK ABEL
INKS

JEAN SIMEK LETTERING
P. GOLDBERG COLORING

ROY THOMAS
EDITOR

"THE WIND IS, AND OFFERS PROOF OF ITSELF... BY BEING. MEN WHO SEEK TO PROVE THEMSELVES THROUGH VIOLENCE... HAVE LEARNED NOTHING FROM THE CARESS OF A COOL BREEZE."

SHO...
ANUDDER KUNG
PHEW JERK,
HUH?

WELL, JUSHT
WATCH WHERE YER
SHTEPPIN',
FORTUNE-KOOKIE...

...CUZ I GOT A
GOOD OLE-FASHION
AMURICAN *FISHT*
DAT'LL MAKE *CHOP*
SUSIE OUTTA YER
PAJAMAS!

THE DEVIL- DOCTOR'S TRIUMPH

CHAPTER ONE: EYES





"BUT WHERE I WISHED TO
EVADE HIS HOSTILITY...AND
AVOID STRIKING HIM..."

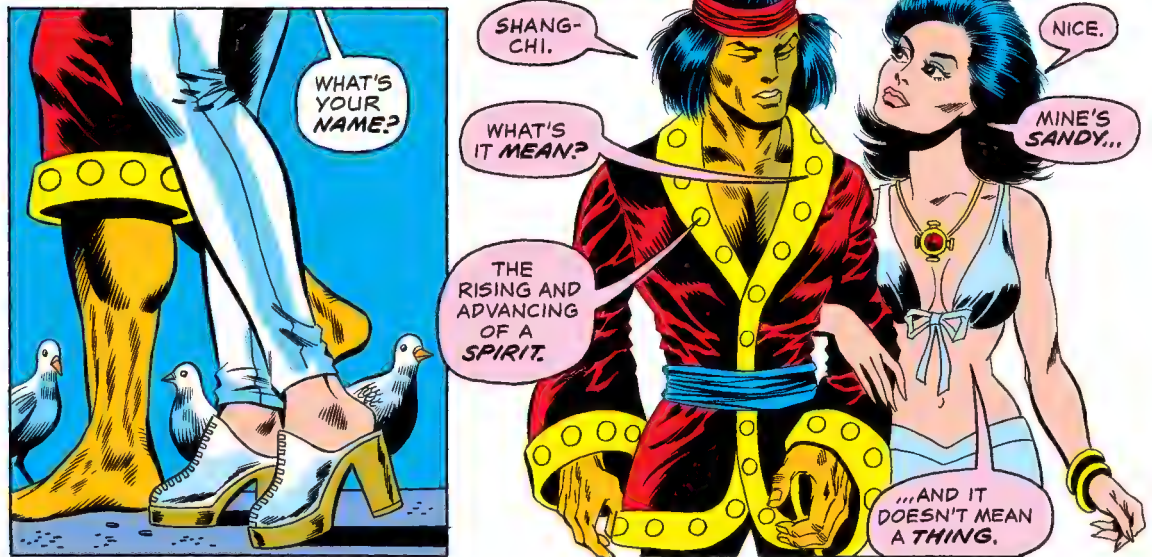
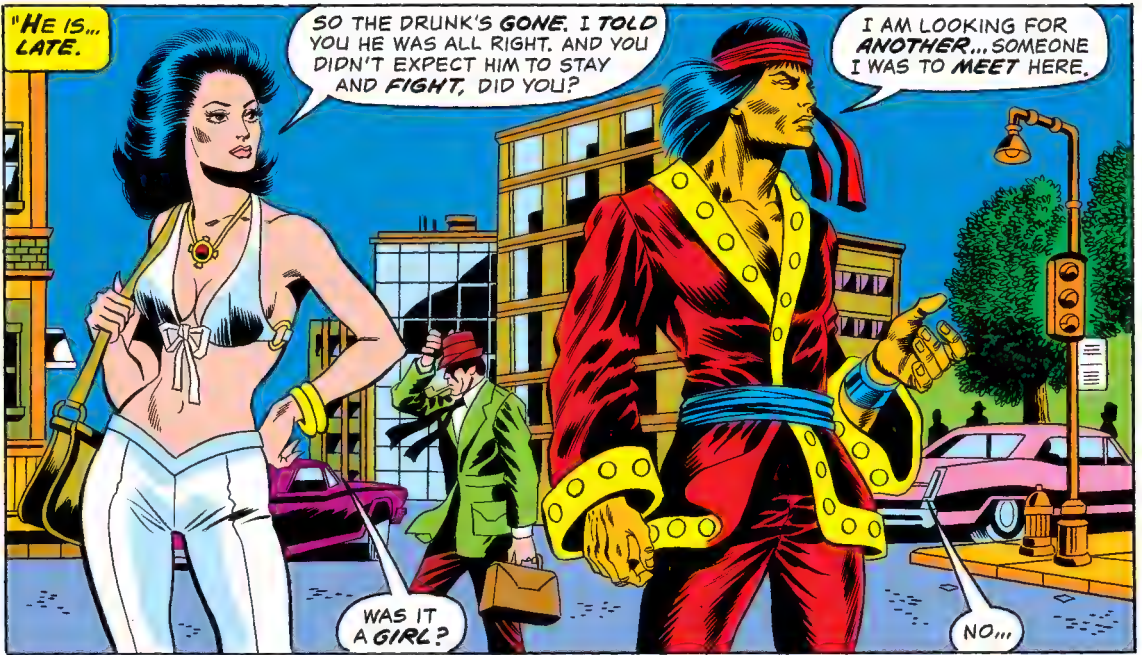


"...IT WOULD SEEM HE HAS
DEALT HIMSELF INJURY, A BLOW
INFLICTED BY THE BRUTAL
FORCE OF LIQUOR."

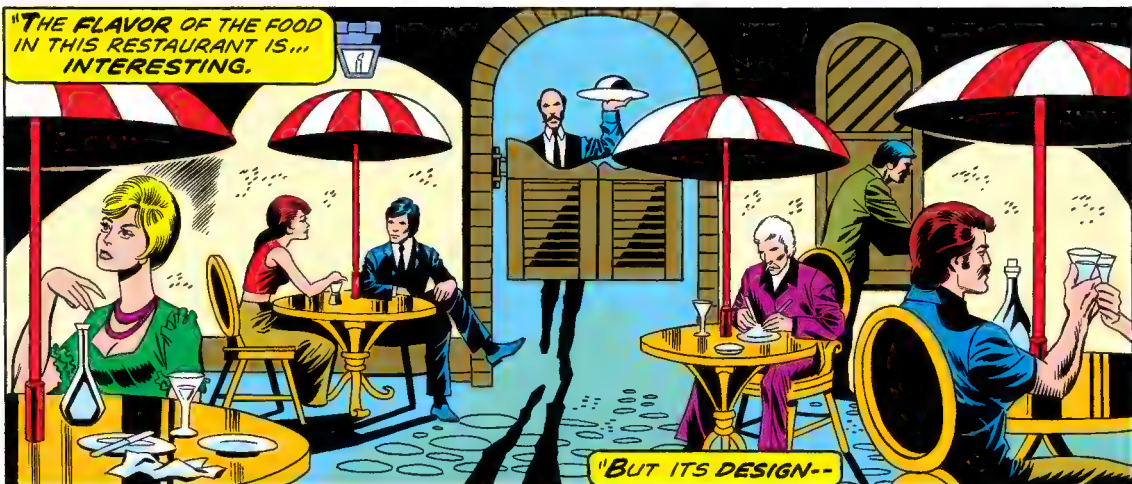
NOT YOU
AGAIN.







"THE FLAVOR OF THE FOOD
IN THIS RESTAURANT IS...
INTERESTING.



"BUT ITS DESIGN--

"-- WOULD RENDER IT
INEDIBLE.



I SEE THIS IS YOUR
FIRST EXPERIENCE
WITH PIZZA.

HOW LONG HAVE
YOU BEEN IN
NEW YORK,
SHANG-CHI?

I AM NOT AWARE
OF THE PRECISE
PASSAGE OF TIME.

A BETTER ANSWER I
COULDN'T GET FROM BRANDO.

BUT AS MUCH AS I'M
WITH YOU IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST
CLOCK-WATCHING--



-- I THINK IT'S
TIME FOR
THE ...

CHECK,
PLEASE!



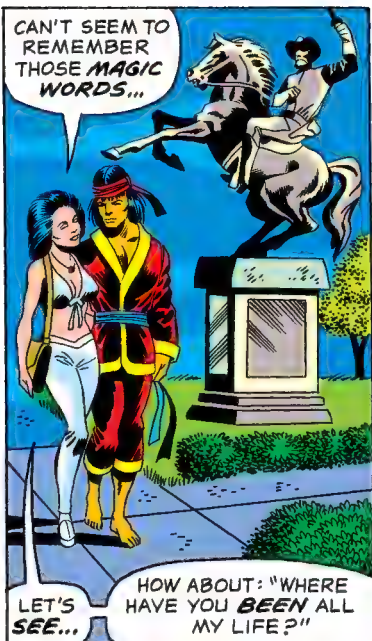
AND SINCE I DON'T
SEE ANY POCKETS
IN THOSE THREADS
OF YOURS ...



YOU CAN SKIM
A TIP OFF THE
TOP, WAITER.



NOW, WHAT WAS
THAT YOU SAID
ABOUT A WALK
IN THE PARK,
HANDSOME?



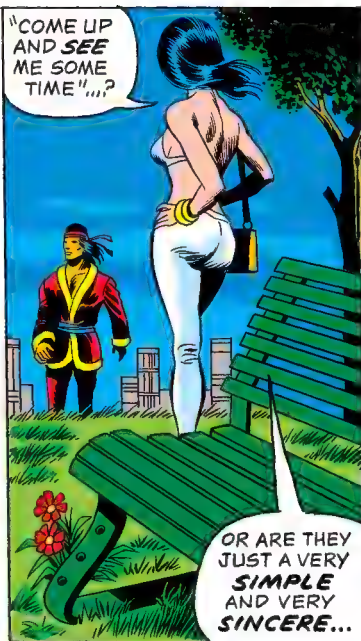
CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER THOSE **MAGIC** WORDS...

LET'S SEE...

HOW ABOUT: "WHERE HAVE YOU **BEEN** ALL MY LIFE?"

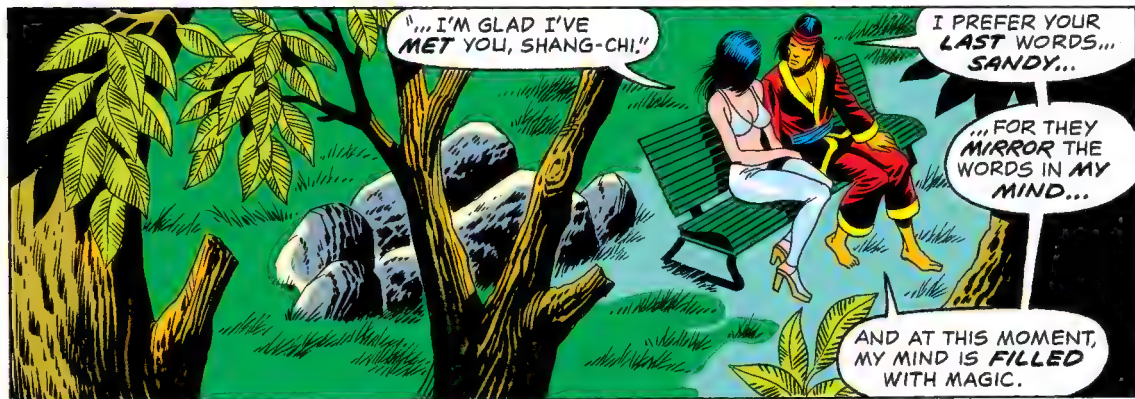


"BLOW IN MY **EAR** AND I'LL FOLLOW YOU **ANYWHERE**" ...?



"COME UP AND **SEE** ME SOME TIME" ...?

OR ARE THEY JUST A VERY **SIMPLE** AND VERY **SINCERE**...



"... I'M GLAD I'VE **MET** YOU, SHANG-CHI."

I PREFER YOUR **LAST** WORDS... **SANDY**...

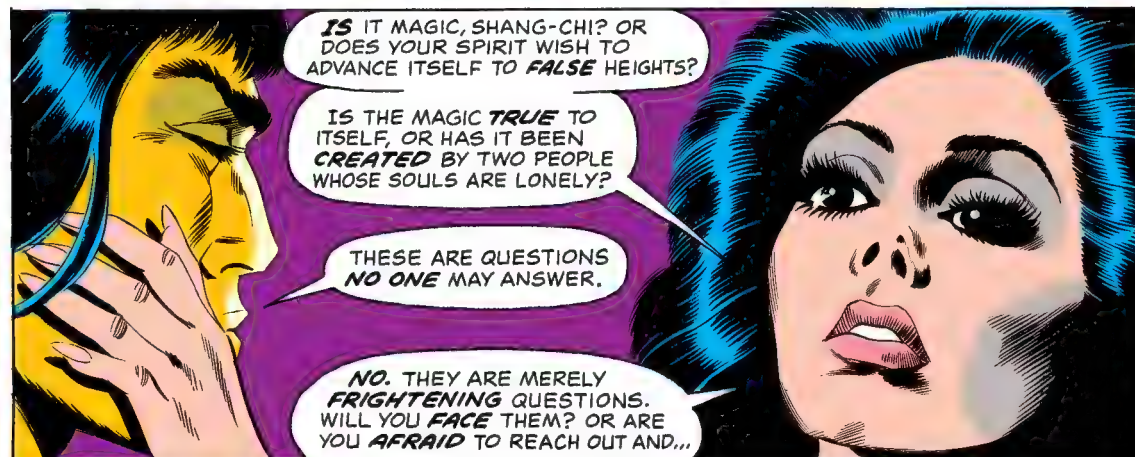
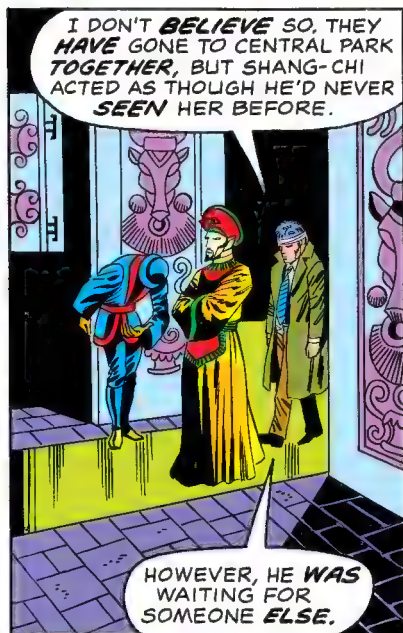
... FOR THEY **MIRROR** THE WORDS IN MY **MIND**...

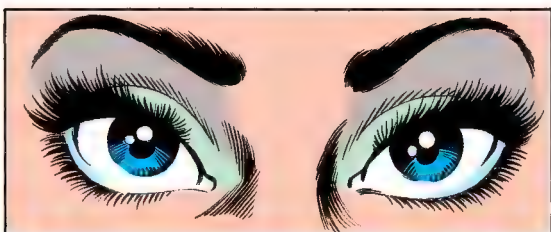
AND AT THIS MOMENT, MY MIND IS **FILLED** WITH **MAGIC**.

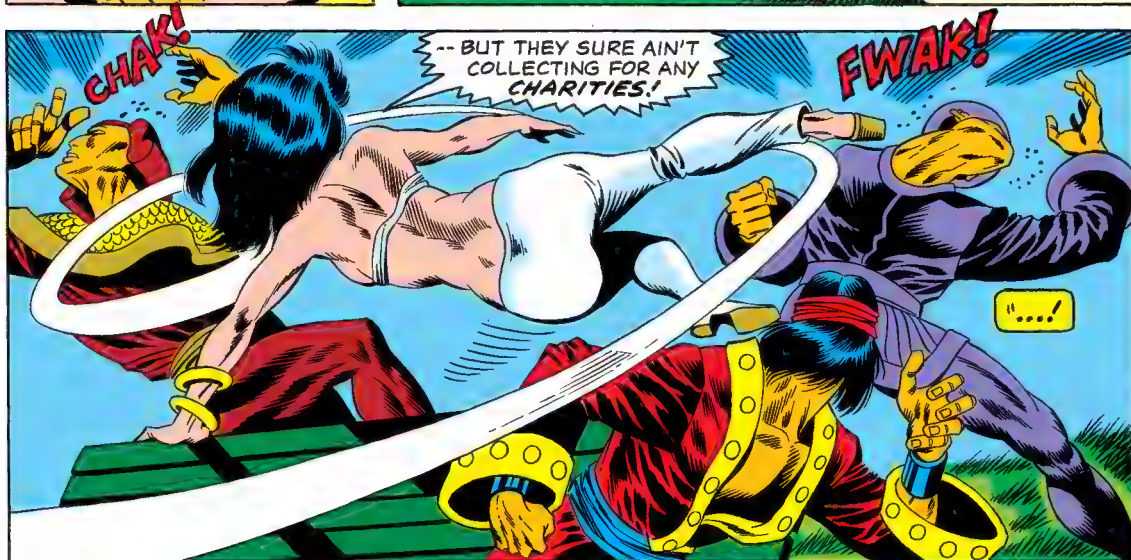


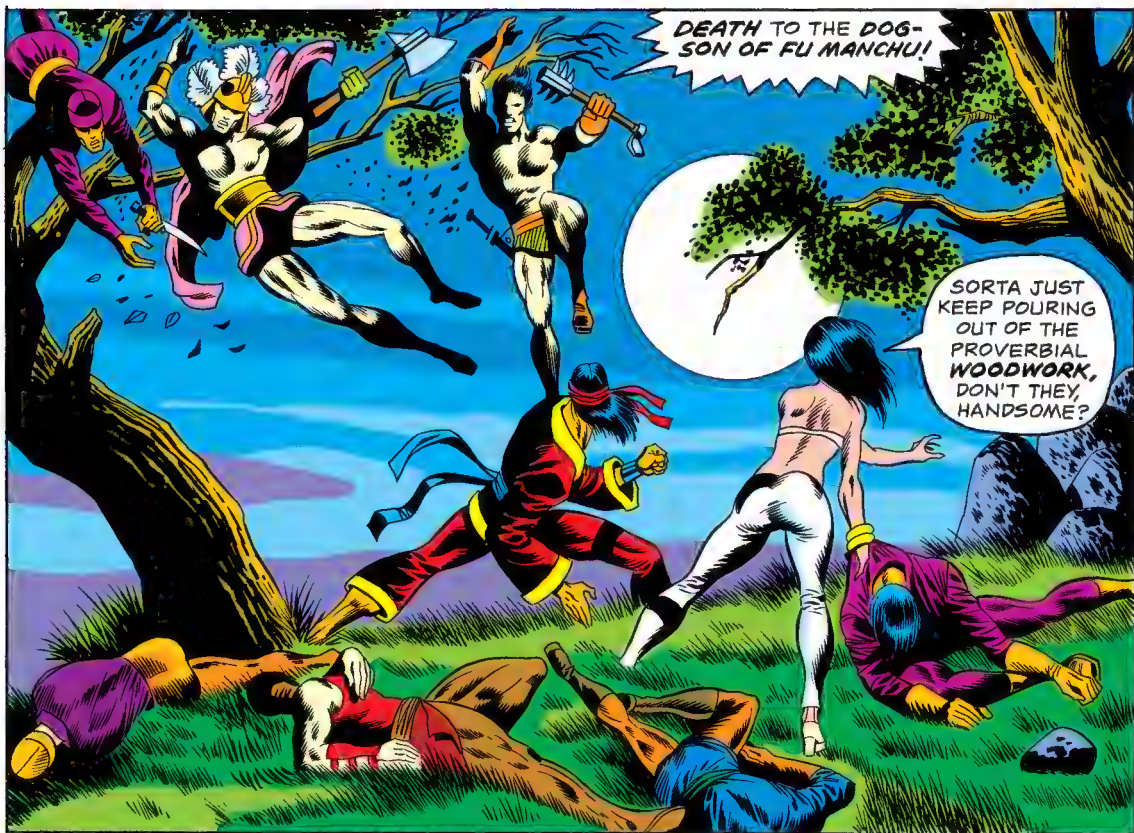
HONORABLE **FU MANCHU**, I WISH TO MAKE MY **REPORT**.

YOU MAY **SPEAK**. PEKO AND DUCHARME ARE BOTH **EXTENSIONS** OF MY OWN **EARS**.







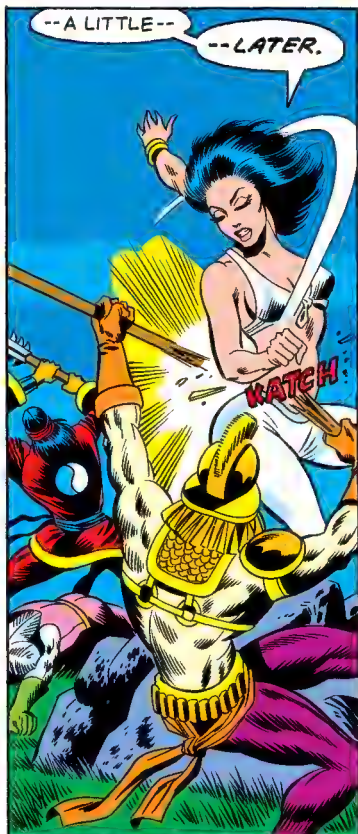


DEATH TO THE DOG-
SON OF FU MANCHU!

SORTA JUST
KEEP POURING
OUT OF THE
PROVERBIAL
WOODWORK,
DON'T THEY,
HANDSOME?



AND WE'LL
TALK ABOUT
THAT "DOG-SON
OF FU-MANCHU"
CRACK--



--A LITTLE--

--LATER.



BECAUSE
SOMETHING TELLS
ME THERE'S MORE
TO YOU--

--THAN
MEETS THE
EYES.

HIIEEEE!!

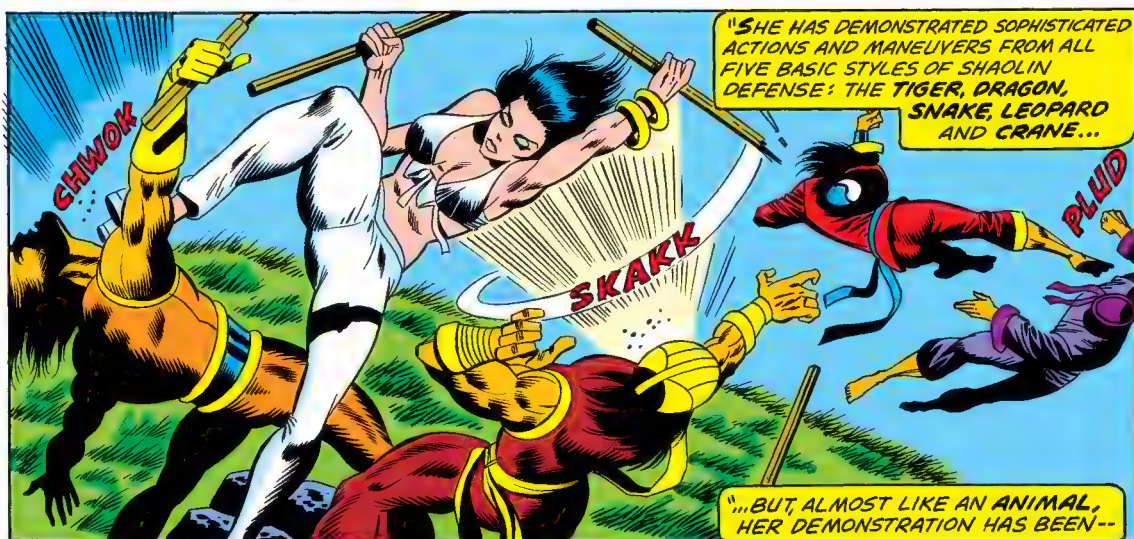
"THE GIRL **SURPRISES** ME. I HAVE MET HER IN A PLACE WHICH DEMANDS **MONEY** IN RETURN FOR THE "TEACHING" OF A SKILL WHICH MAY ONLY BE **LEARNED...** THROUGH A PROCESS OF **SELF-EFFACEMENT...**"

COME ON, HANDSOME--WE'VE GOT 'EM BY THE **TAILS** NOW!

THERE'RE ONLY **THREE LEFT--!**



"...AND YET, SHE **HAS** LEARNED."



"SHE HAS DEMONSTRATED SOPHISTICATED ACTIONS AND MANEUVERS FROM ALL FIVE BASIC STYLES OF SHAOLIN DEFENSE: THE **TIGER, DRAGON, SNAKE, LEOPARD** AND **CRANE...**"

"...BUT, ALMOST LIKE AN ANIMAL, HER DEMONSTRATION HAS BEEN--"

"--OVERZEALOUS."

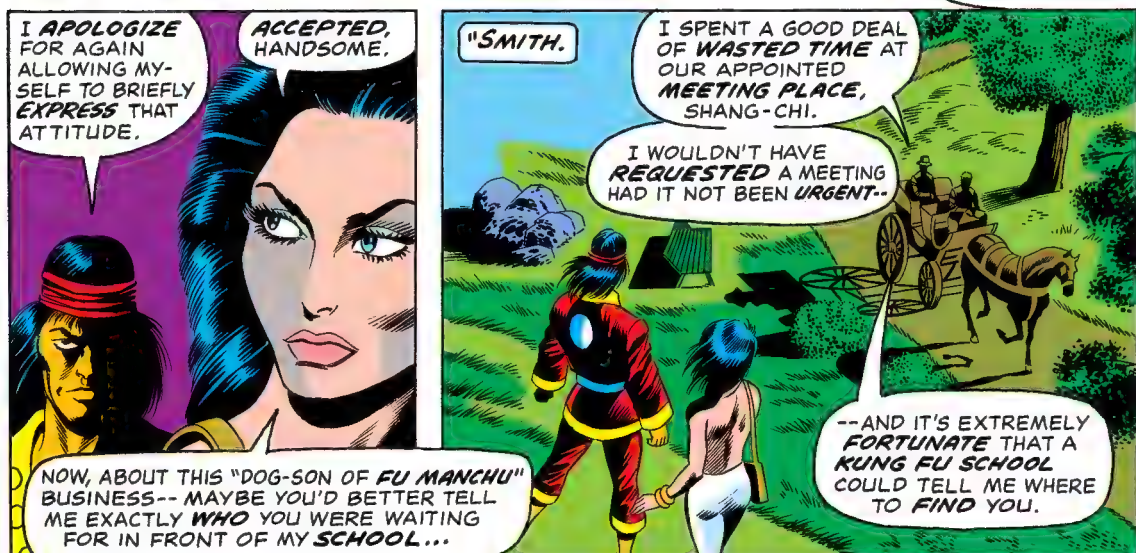
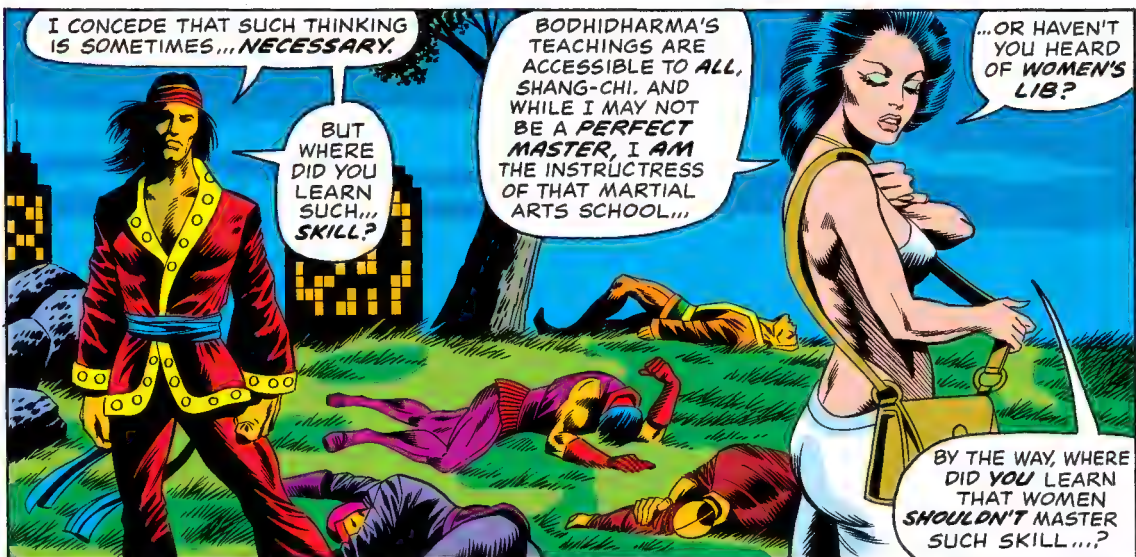
IT IS **FINISHED**, SANDY... AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR **AID**.

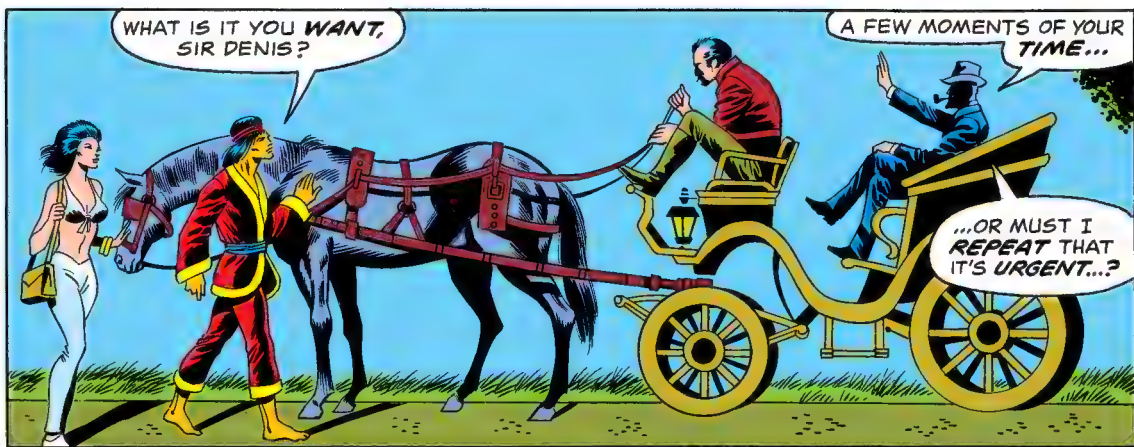
BUT THESE MEN BREATHED THE SAME **AIR** WHICH FILLS **YOU** AND **ME**.

YOU FOUGHT AS THOUGH TO **CRUSH** THAT AIR FROM THEM... **FOREVER**.

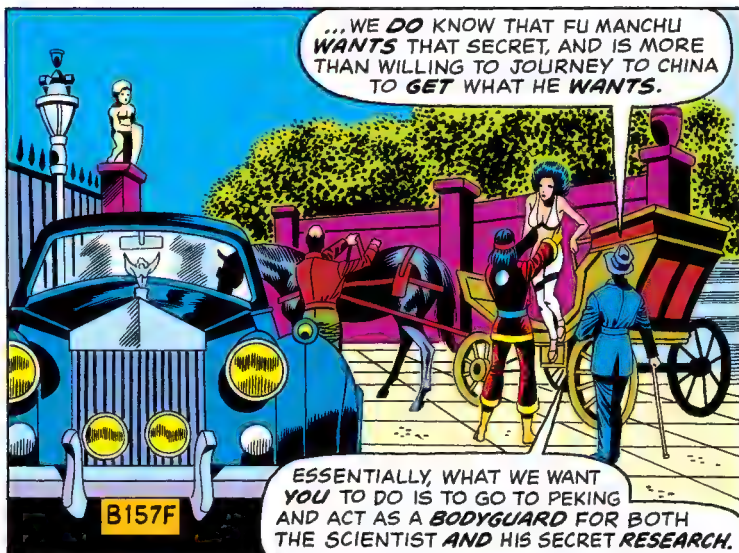
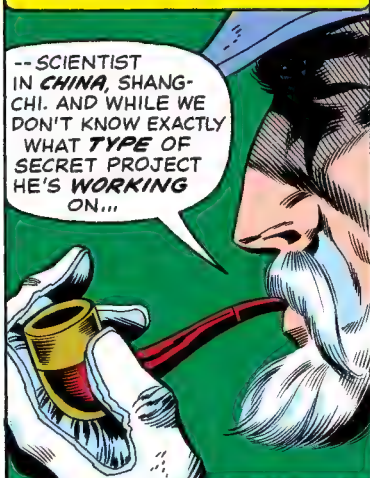
LOOK, HANDSOME, WHEN A DUDE **ATTACKS** ME, I JUST WANT TO MAKE HIM WISH HE **HADN'T...**

"...AND TO PREVENT HIM FROM TRYING A **SECOND** TIME JUST IN CASE HE DIDN'T GET THE **HINT**."





"THE RIDE IS NOT PLEASANT...
FOR SMITH IS SELDOM INVOLVED
IN PLEASANT MATTERS..."



"SMITH'S WORDS ARE DESPERATE, AND WOULD RACE THE SPEED OF HIS CAR. BUT MY MIND PERCEIVES HIS WORDS FROM A DISTANCE... FOR I FIND MYSELF DWELLING ON A PLANE OF... DISTRACTION.

IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE REACH THE AIRPORT IN TIME FOR **THIS FLIGHT**, SHANG-CHI. THERE AREN'T **MANY** SCHEDULED FOR **PEKING AIRPORT**, YOU KNOW.

SEVERAL OF OUR AGENTS WILL **ALSO** BE ABOARD, POSING AS **LEGITIMATE** PASSENGERS, THEY'VE BEEN BRIEFED TO FUNCTION AS THE **REAL** PASSENGERS WOULD-- ONCE THEY ARRIVE IN **PEKING**.

AFTER THAT, THEY'LL BE ASSISTING IN DR. LING'S UNDERCOVER **DEFECTION**-- THEREBY SERVING A **SUPPLEMENTAL** PURPOSE. BUT RIGHT **NOW**, THEIR **IMMEDIATE** OBJECTIVE IS AID TO **YOU**...

BECAUSE OF THE CRUCIAL **TIME FACTOR** INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION, **THEY** ARE AWARE OF DETAILS THAT EVEN **I** HAVEN'T HEARD YET.

CHAPTER 2

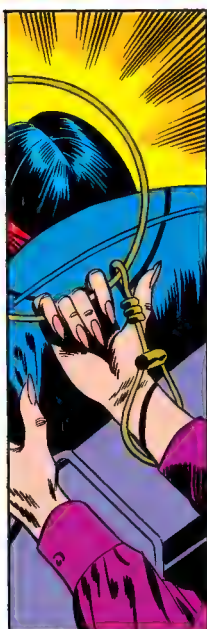
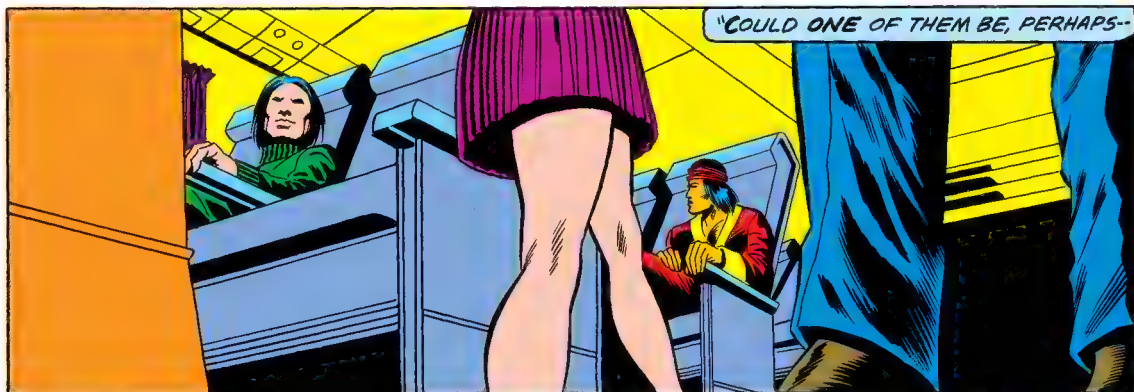
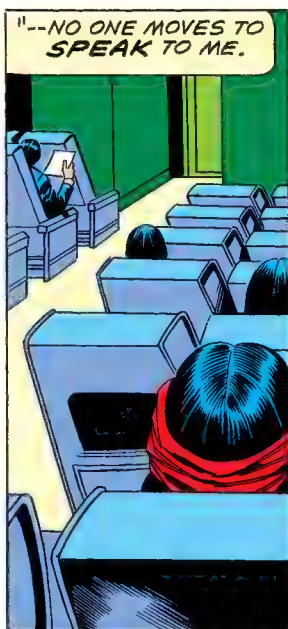
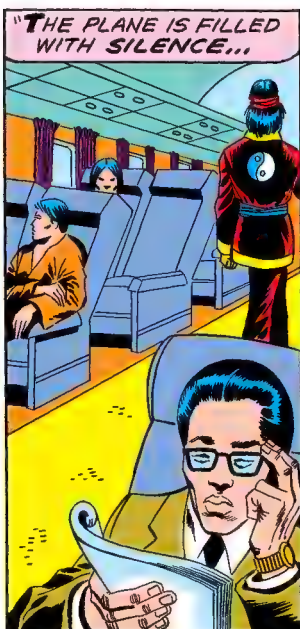
AIR

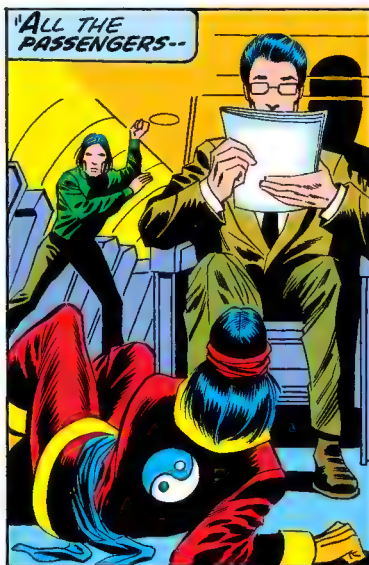
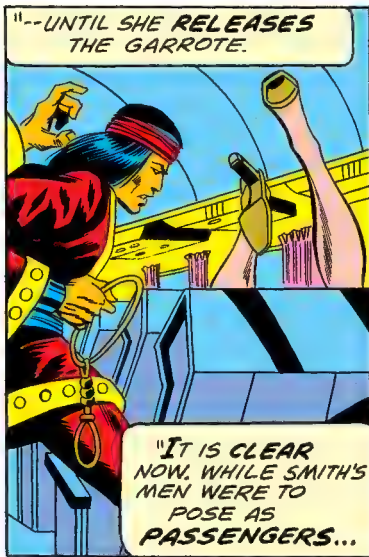
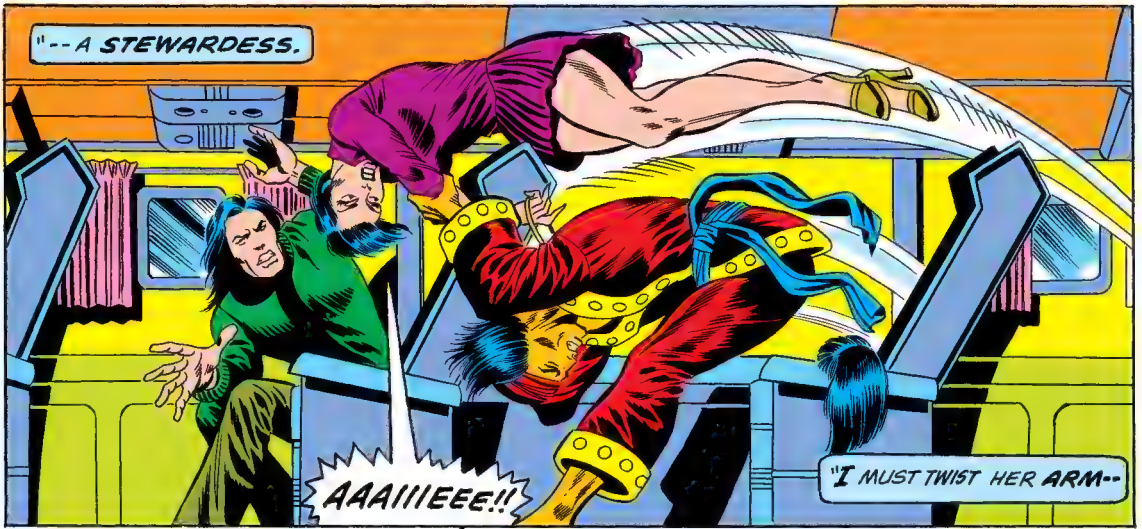
"SMITH'S DISCOURSE EXTENDS TO OUR **DESTINATION**, PERSISTING EVEN AS I BOARD THE CRAFT..."

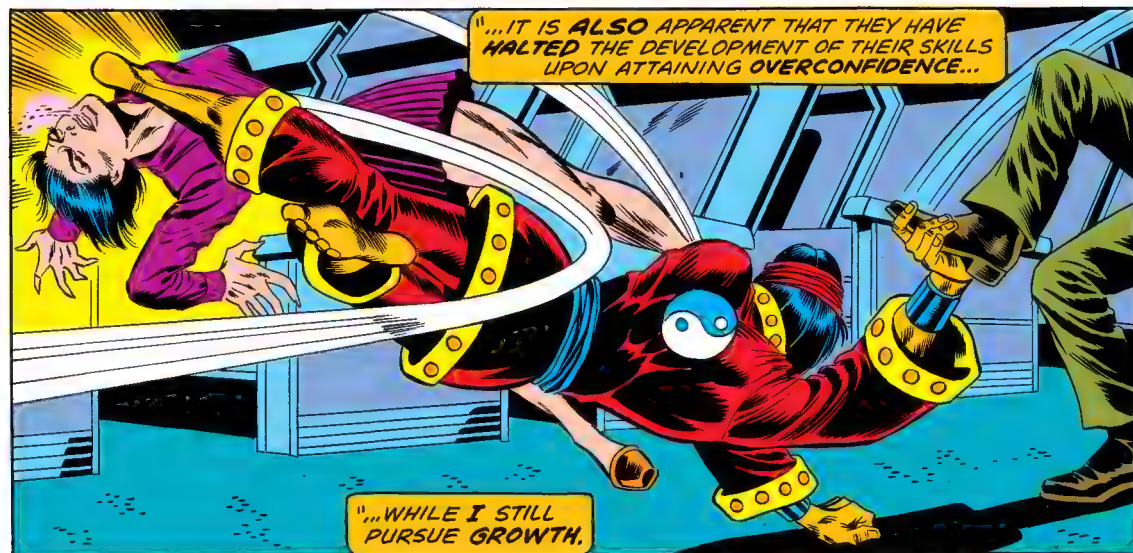
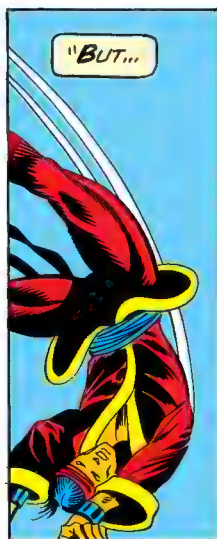
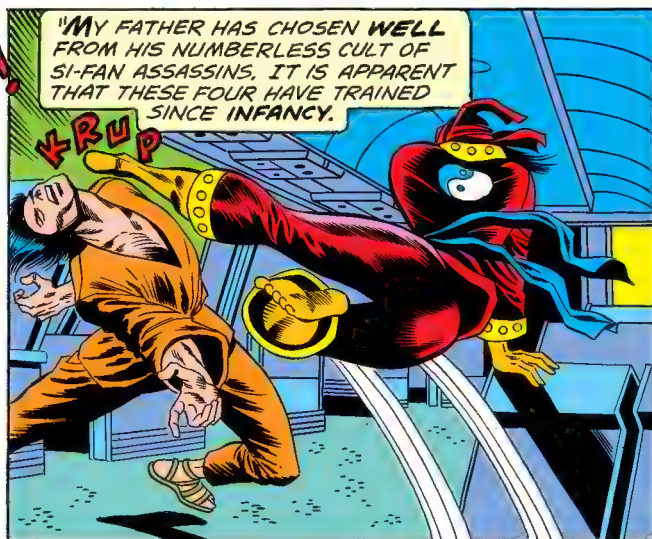
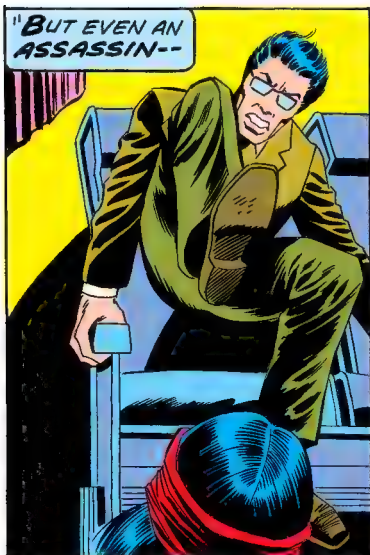
NOW DON'T **FORGET**-- YOU'LL RECEIVE **FURTHER** INSTRUCTIONS FROM OUR AGENTS ABOARD THE **PLANE**, EN ROUTE TO **PEKING**.

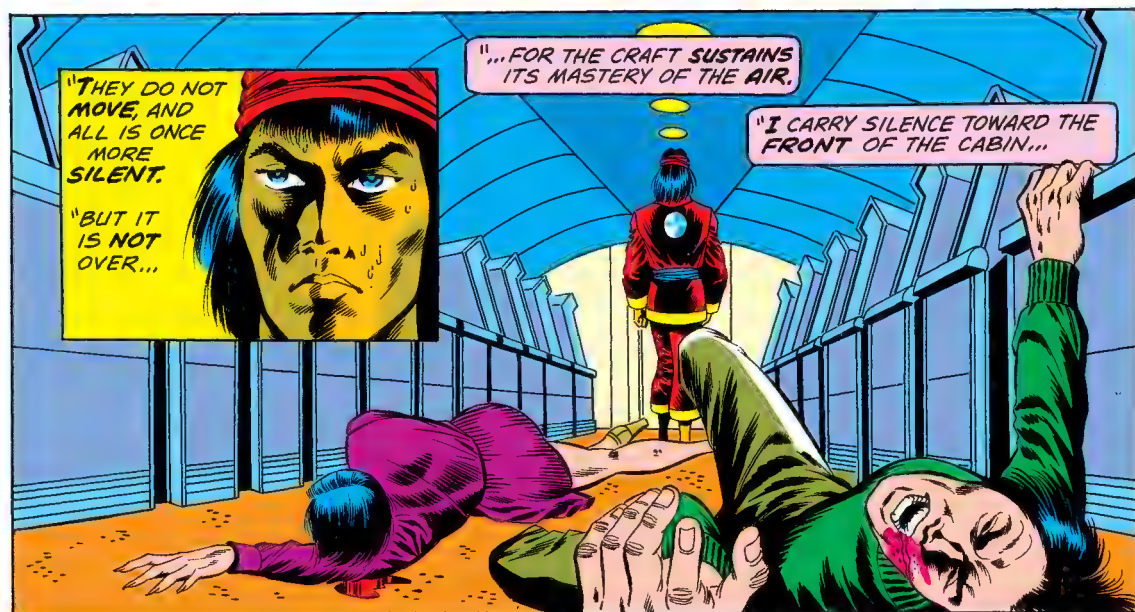
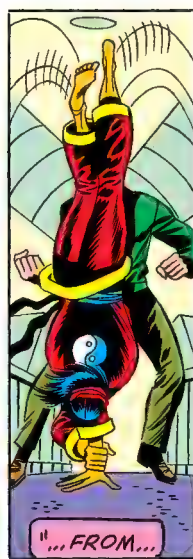
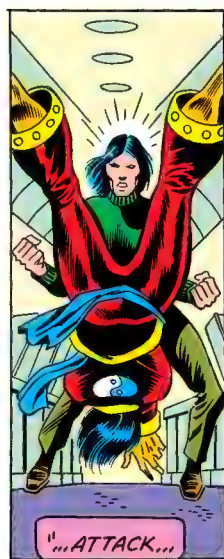
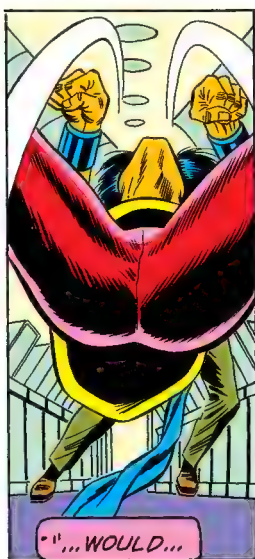
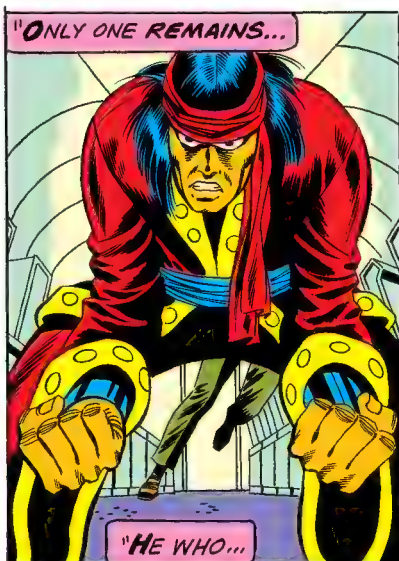
BLACK JACK AND I WILL **RENDEZVOUS** WITH YOU IN CHINA AS SOON AS **POSSIBLE**.

AND... BE **CAREFUL**, LAD-- FOR **EVERYONE'S** SAKE.









"...TO THE PLACE
WHERE I WILL FIND--

"--THE PILOTS.

CHAK

HLMPH UMP
NF UF FNN!

KLMPH UMF
NE UF FNN!

I DON'T KNOW **HOW** YOU TOOK THEM ALL OUT BY **YOURSELF**, SHANG-CHI-- BUT IT'LL BE A **LONG TIME** BEFORE YOU OUTDISTANCE **MY** GRATITUDE.

YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T **BELIEVE** SMITH WHEN HE ASSURED ME YOU'D BE ABLE TO PASS THROUGH THE PEKING **CUSTOMS LINE** UNDETECTED. REMIND ME TO BUY YOU A **DRINK** WHEN THIS IS ALL **OVER**.

WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL
FIND OURSELVES A
COMFORTABLE SEAT
FOR THE DURATION OF
THE **FLIGHT**. JIMMY
AND AL WILL ASSUME
THE **CONTROLS...**

...AND I'D
BETTER FILL YOU
IN ON WHERE
YOU'LL BE MEETING
YOUR *LIAISON*
AGENT...

"WE ARRIVE AT THE PEKING AIRPORT... AND SMITH'S AGENT PRESENTS ME WITH A GIFT WHICH PROFANES THE ACT OF GIVING.

"I ACCEPT IT."

"SMITH'S AGENT HAS INFORMED ME THAT THE CUSTOMS LINE AHEAD IS PERHAPS THE MOST SCRUPULOUSLY MAINTAINED IN THE WORLD.

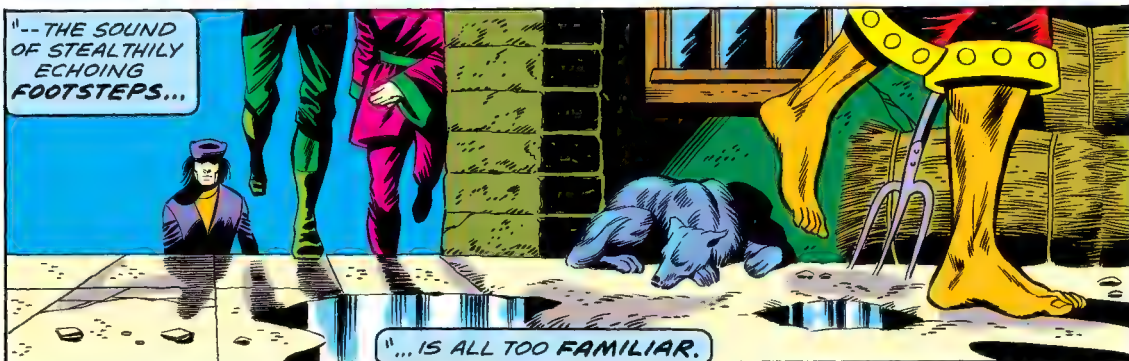
"FORTUNATELY, HE HAS
ARRANGED FOR ME
TO CIRCUMVENT US.

DECEIT

CHAPTER
3

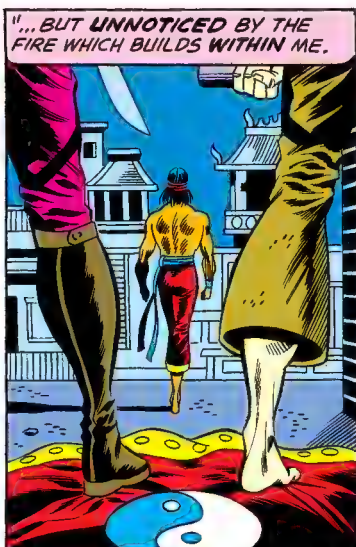


"--THE SOUND
OF STEALTHILY
ECHOING
FOOTSTEPS..."





"THE NIGHT AIR IS CHILL..."



"...BUT UNNOTICED BY THE FIRE WHICH BUILDS WITHIN ME."

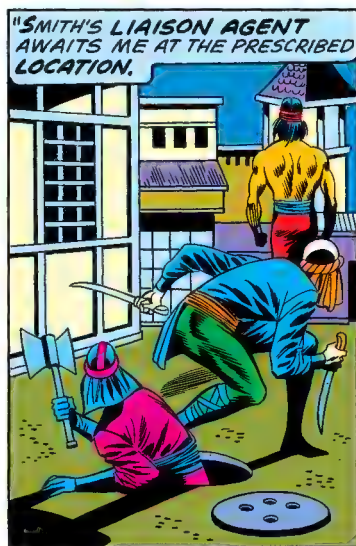


"I LISTEN TO THE SOFT SOUNDS OF DEATH AWAKENING..."



"...LIKE VERMIN SLITHERING FROM FILTH..."

"...BUT I DO NOT PAUSE."



"SMITH'S LIAISON AGENT AWAITS ME AT THE PRESCRIBED LOCATION."



"I MUST APPROACH THAT LOCATION..."



"...UNTIL I AM FORCED TO PAUSE, AND STAND LIKE A SINGLE BLADE OF GRASS--"

"--AMIDST A HARVEST OF DEATH."

STAND, SHANG-CHI--

--AND PREPARE TO LEAVE THIS LIFE.

"I FALL TO A CROUCH, SLIDING THE NUNCHAKU STICKS FROM MY SASH.

"I HAVE COME TO REJECT WEAPONS AS CRUTCHES FIT ONLY FOR THOSE WEAK IN BODY AND SPIRIT... AND HAVE NOT TURNED TO THE NUNCHAKU SINCE FACING MIDNIGHT, HE WHO HAD BEEN MY BROTHER M'NAI...*

"AND THIS FACT, FAR MORE THAN THE ASSASSINS THEMSELVES--

"...BUT EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE A GIFT WHICH PROFANES THE ACT OF GIVING...

"...I HAVE ACCEPTED THEM AS NECESSARY.

MADNESS RULES HIS SPIRIT--!

HE WOULD OPPOSE US ALL!!

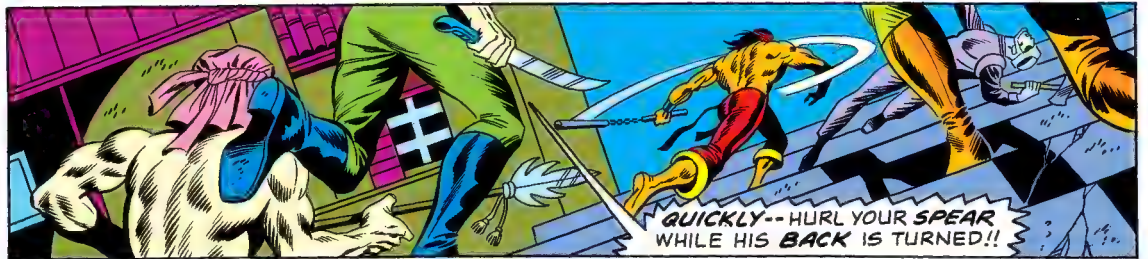
"--FILLS--

"--ME--

"--WITH--

"--ANGER.

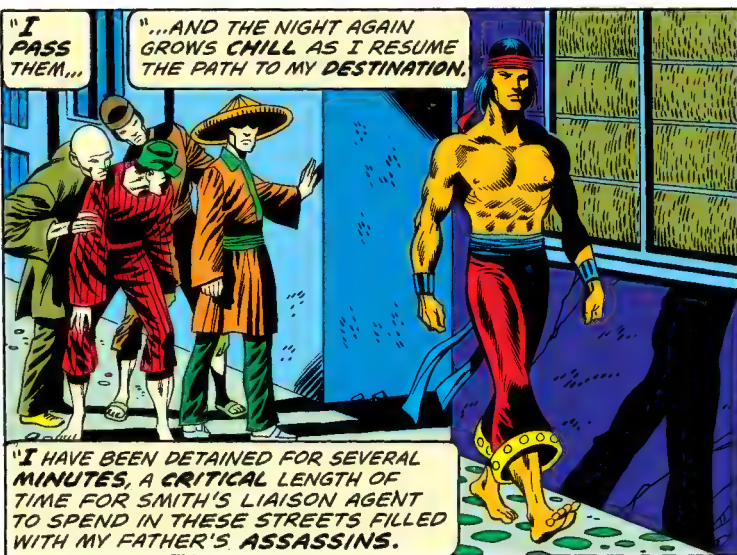
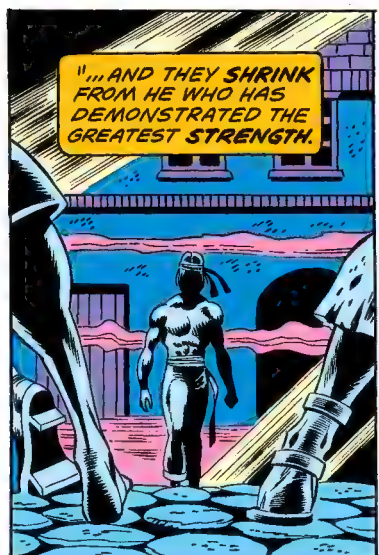
HIIEEEE!!



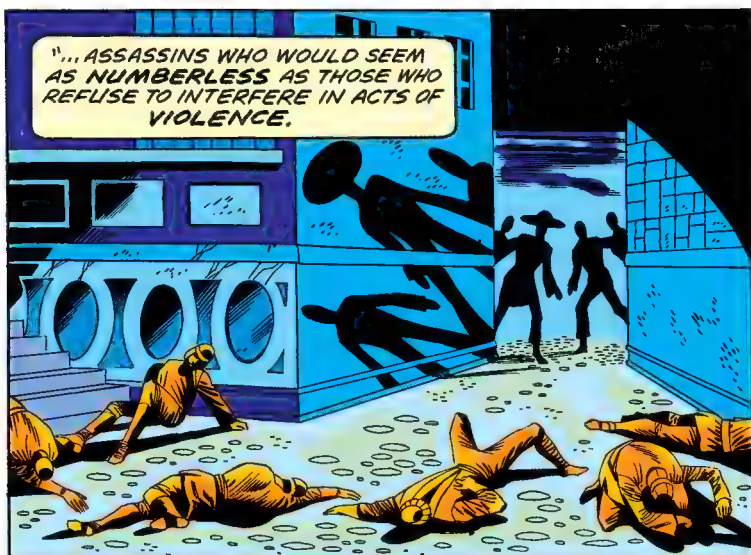


"A NUMBER OF THE ASSASSINS BEGIN FLEEING NOW, PREFERRING TO FACE MY FATHER RATHER THAN THE FURY WHICH FILLS ME. OTHERS FALL, CLEARING THE PATH OF MY SIGHT... AND I AM ABLE TO SEE TO THE MOUTH OF THIS ALLEY..."

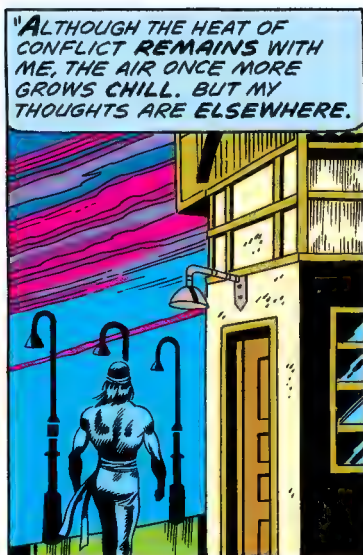
"...WHERE A SMALL CROWD OF CITIZENS HAS GATHERED. THEY ARE MUCH LIKE THOSE WHO INHABIT THE PLACE CALLED NEW YORK..."



"I HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, A CRITICAL LENGTH OF TIME FOR SMITH'S LIAISON AGENT TO SPEND IN THESE STREETS FILLED WITH MY FATHER'S ASSASSINS."



"... ASSASSINS WHO WOULD SEEM AS NUMBERLESS AS THOSE WHO REFUSE TO INTERFERE IN ACTS OF VIOLENCE.



"ALTHOUGH THE HEAT OF CONFLICT REMAINS WITH ME, THE AIR ONCE MORE GROWS CHILL. BUT MY THOUGHTS ARE ELSEWHERE.



"... AND FOR A MOMENT THERE IS MAGIC IN THIS NIGHT...



"... FLOATING...



"... IN THE...



"... AIR.



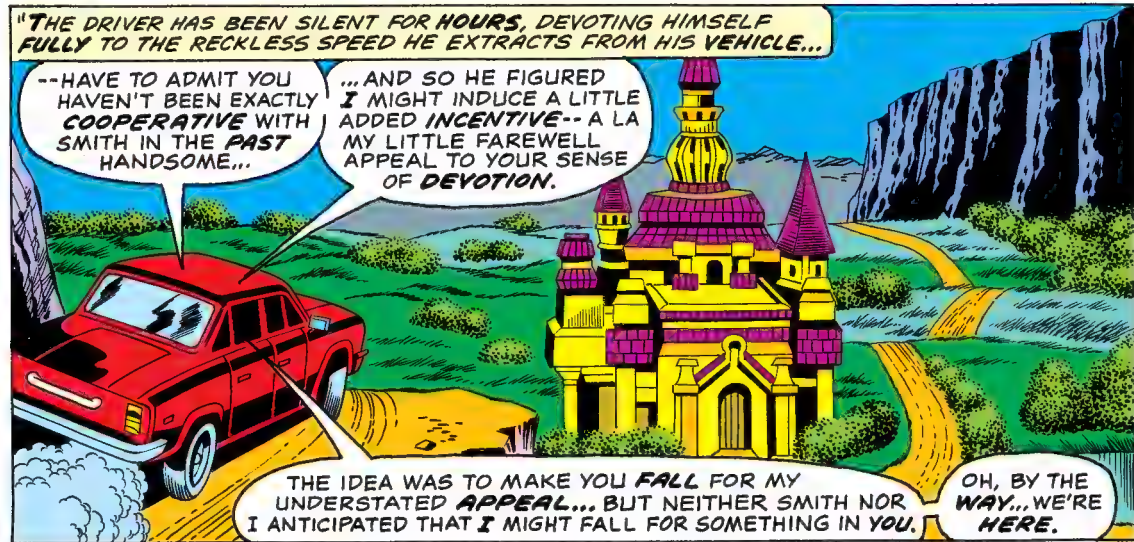
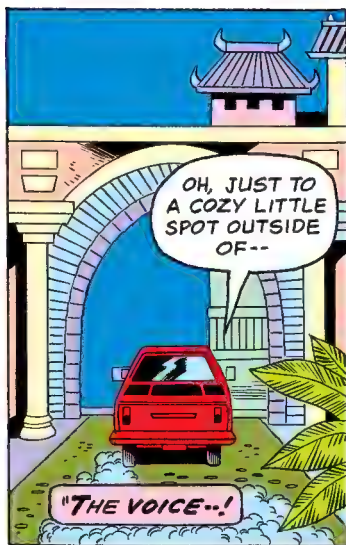
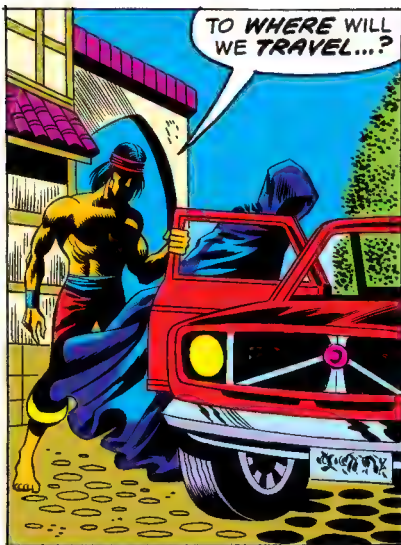
"I HAVE REACHED THE RENDEZVOUS POINT, BUT THERE IS NO ONE--

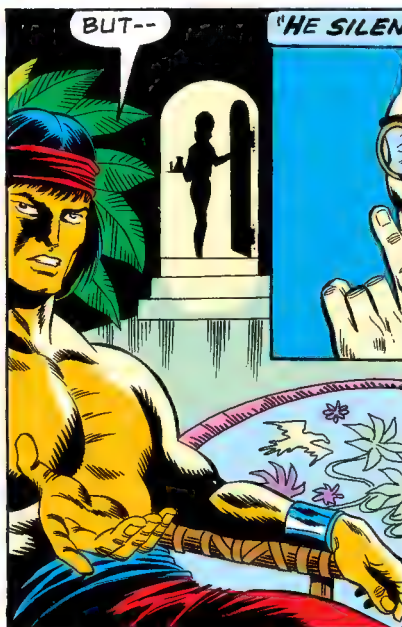
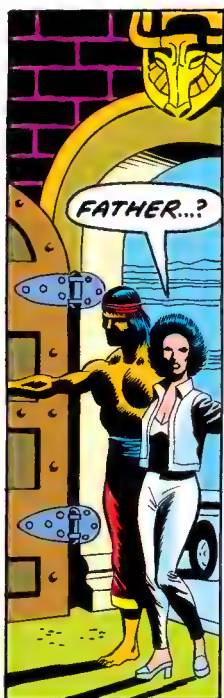
PSST!

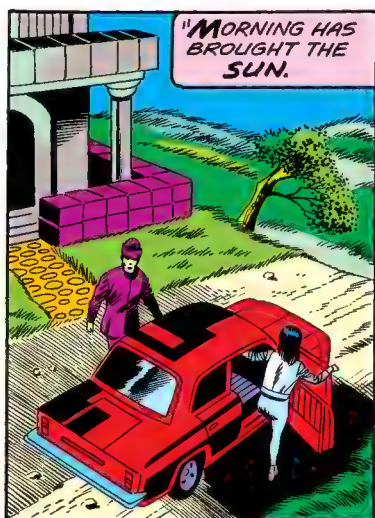


"I FOLLOW, AND AS THE ROBED AGENT PASSES THROUGH AN ANCIENT ARCHWAY...

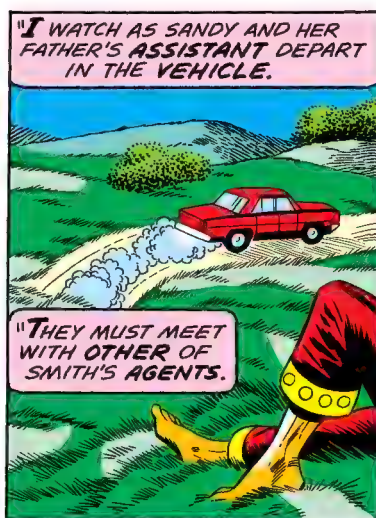
"... I AM REMINDED OF THE DISTANCE WHICH SEPARATES ME FROM A SIMPLE PARK BENCH.





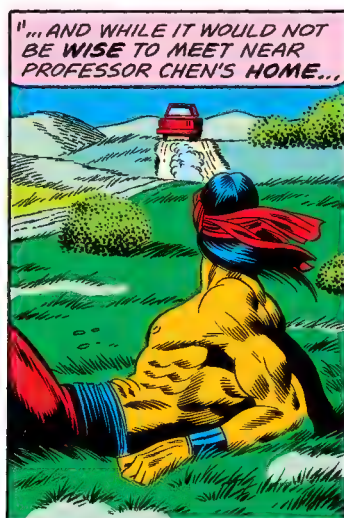


"MORNING HAS BROUGHT THE SUN.

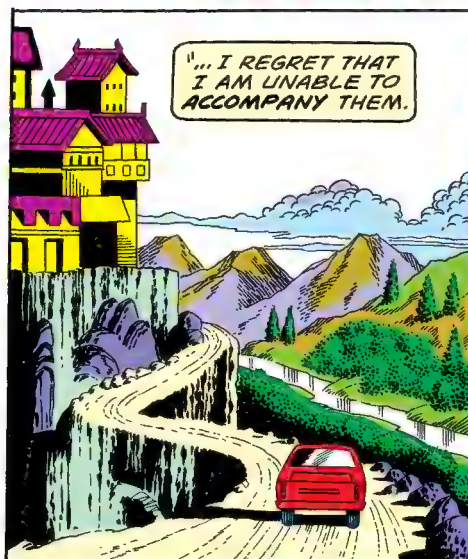


"I WATCH AS SANDY AND HER FATHER'S ASSISTANT DEPART IN THE VEHICLE.

"THEY MUST MEET WITH OTHER OF SMITH'S AGENTS.



"...AND WHILE IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO MEET NEAR PROFESSOR CHEN'S HOME...



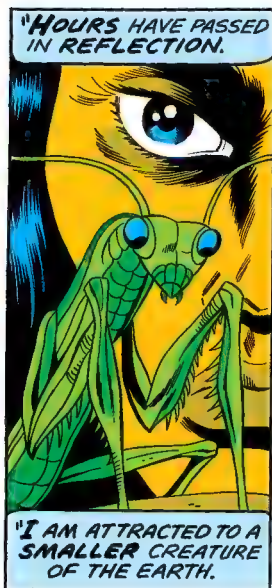
"... I REGRET THAT I AM UNABLE TO ACCOMPANY THEM.



REMOVE HER FROM THE BACK--

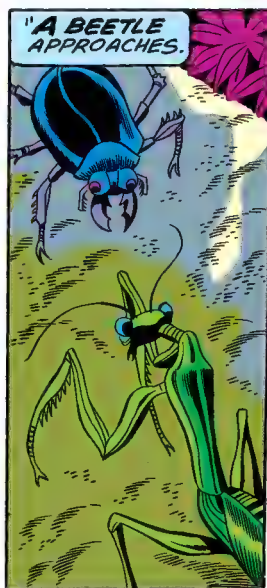


--WHILE I REPORT TO OUR HONORED MASTER.

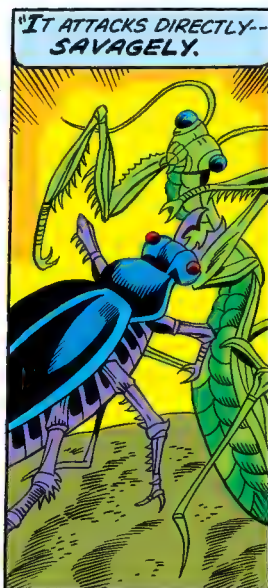


"HOURS HAVE PASSED IN REFLECTION.

"I AM ATTRACTED TO A SMALLER CREATURE OF THE EARTH.



"A BEETLE APPROACHES.

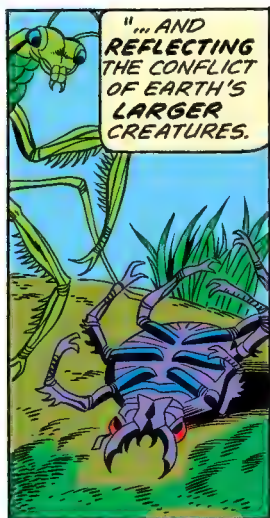


"IT ATTACKS DIRECTLY-- SAVAGELY.

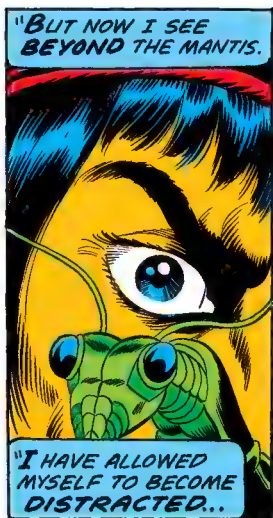


"BUT THE MANTIS MOVES WITH SKILL AND GRACE...

"...DEFLECTING THE BEETLE'S UNDISCIPLINED ATTACK..."



"...AND REFLECTING THE CONFLICT OF EARTH'S LARGER CREATURES.

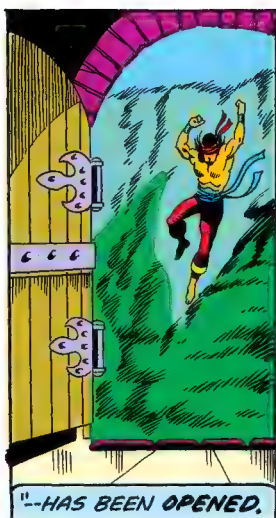


"BUT NOW I SEE BEYOND THE MANTIS.

"I HAVE ALLOWED MYSELF TO BECOME DISTRACTED...



"...AND THE DOOR--



"--HAS BEEN OPENED.



"INSIDE, THE MAN I WAS TO PROTECT--

"--HAS CEREMONIALLY SLAIN HIMSELF--!



YES... A PITY HE HEARD MY APPROACH.



"MY FATH--

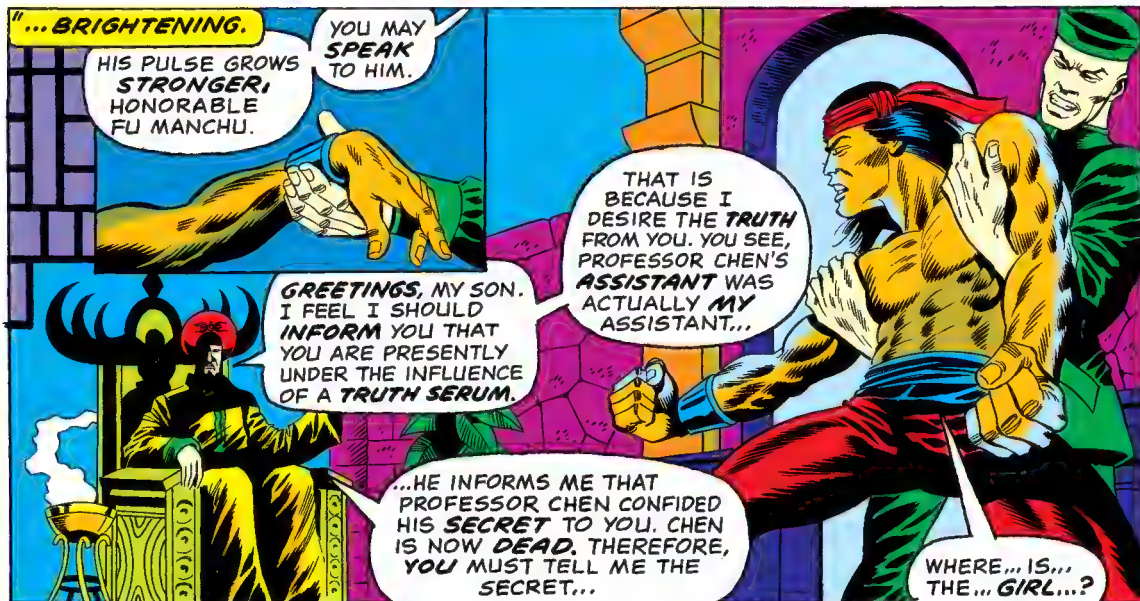
WHAK!

UHN!



BRING HIM...
...TO THE
FORTRESS.

"DARKNESS..."



"...BRIGHTENING.

HIS PULSE GROWS STRONGER, HONORABLE FU MANCHU.

YOU MAY SPEAK TO HIM.

GREETINGS, MY SON. I FEEL I SHOULD INFORM YOU THAT YOU ARE PRESENTLY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A TRUTH SERUM.

THAT IS BECAUSE I DESIRE THE TRUTH FROM YOU. YOU SEE, PROFESSOR CHEN'S ASSISTANT WAS ACTUALLY MY ASSISTANT...

...HE INFORMS ME THAT PROFESSOR CHEN CONFIDED HIS SECRET TO YOU. CHEN IS NOW DEAD. THEREFORE, YOU MUST TELL ME THE SECRET...

WHERE... IS... THE... GIRL...?



YOUR
SELFLESSNESS
SICKENS ME,
SHANG-CHI.



THUS...



I MUST **FORCE**
YOU TO GROW
CONCERNED FOR
YOURSELF.

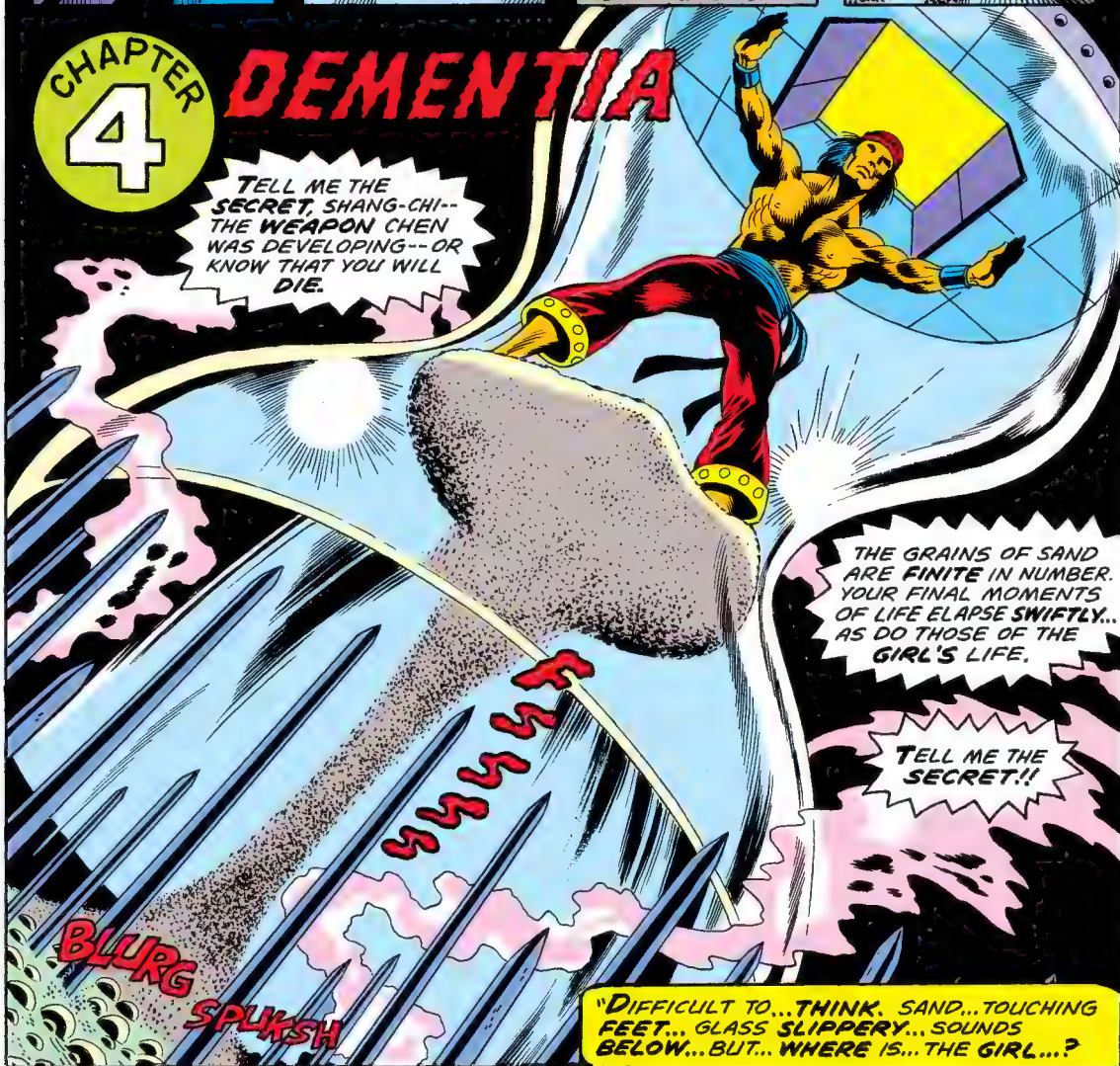


BY PLACING YOU
IN MOST **INGENIOUS**
PERIL.

CHAPTER 4

DEMENTIA

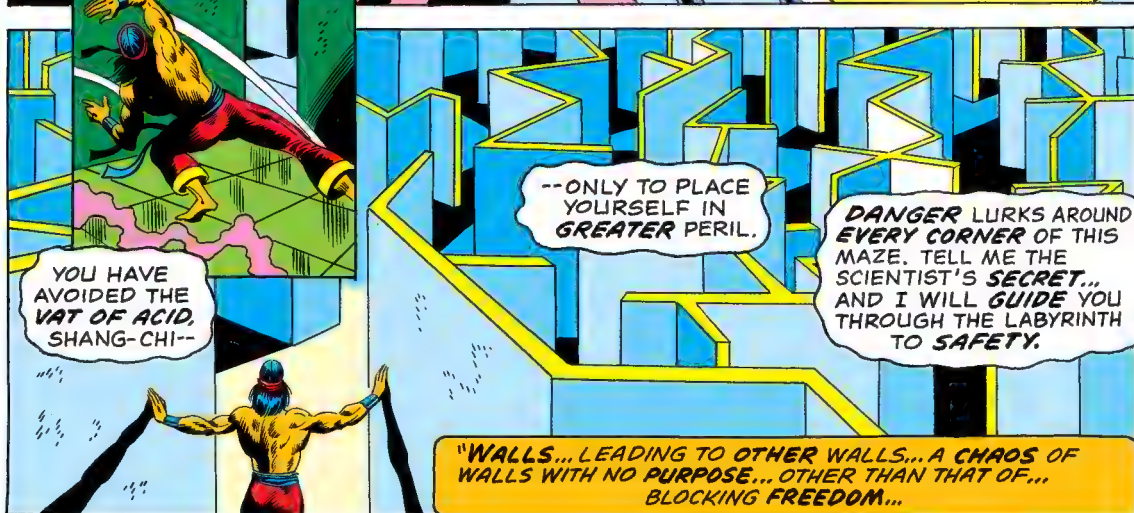
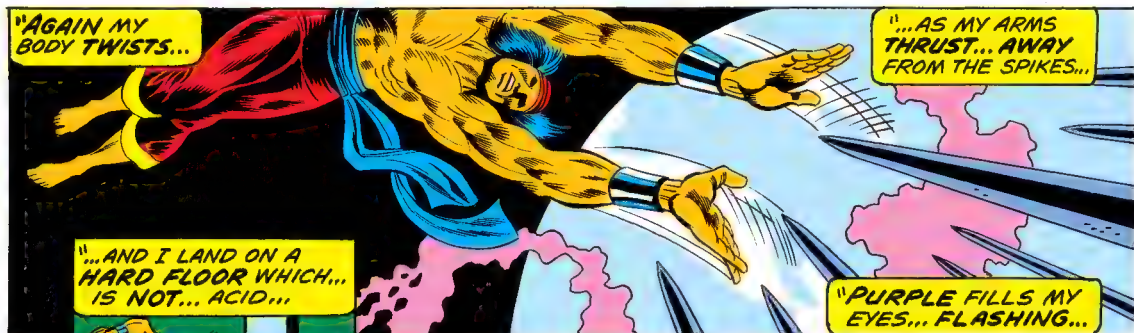
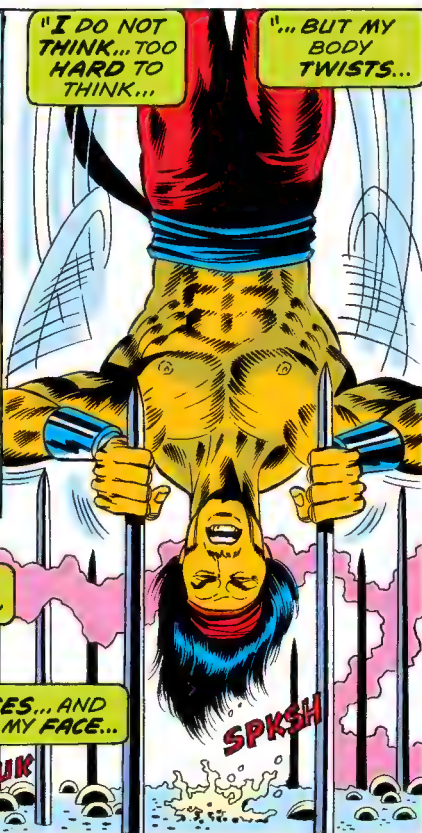
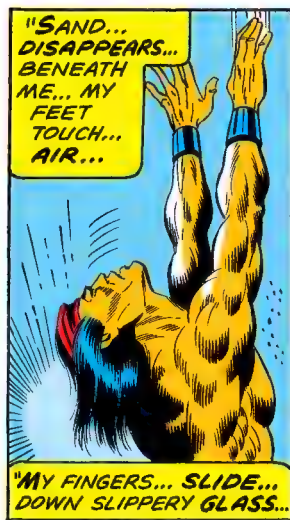
TELL ME THE
SECRET, SHANG-CHI--
THE WEAPON CHEN
WAS DEVELOPING--OR
KNOW THAT YOU WILL
DIE.



THE GRAINS OF SAND
ARE FINITE IN NUMBER.
YOUR FINAL MOMENTS
OF LIFE ELAPSE SWIFTLY...
AS DO THOSE OF THE
GIRL'S LIFE.

TELL ME THE
SECRET!!

"DIFFICULT TO...THINK. SAND...TOUCHING
FEET... GLASS SLIPPERY... SOUNDS
BELOW...BUT... WHERE IS... THE GIRL...?"



"MUST FIND
FREEDOM... MUST
FIND THE GIRL...
SANDY..."



"I ENTER
THE MAZE..."



"...TO FACE
NAKED WHITE...
DEATH..."

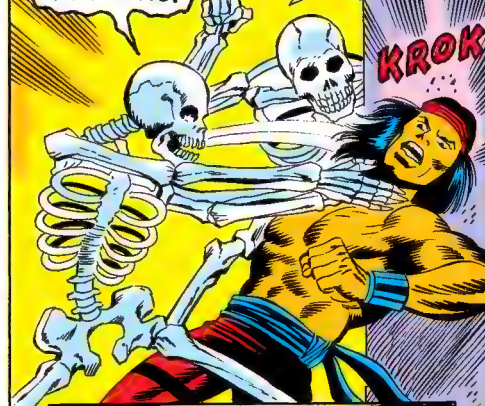
THE SECRET,
SHANG-CHI--
WHAT IS THE
SECRET?



"AGAIN... THE VOICE OF... MY FATHER..."

TELL US THE
SECRET-- OR
YOUR BONES
WILL MATE
WITH OURS!

"DEATH ATTACKS...
MY SKULL HITS THE
WALL..."

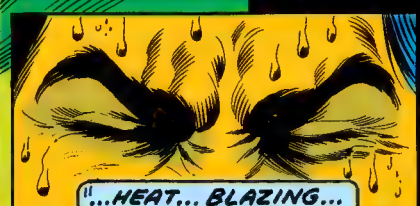


"...AND
FILLS
WITH
ANGER."

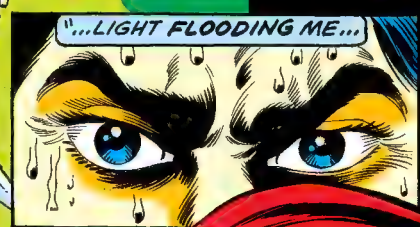
"I STRIKE... SHATTERING THE
WHISPERING WHITE DEATH..."



"...BRINGING LIFE TO THREE LIGHTS..."



"...HEAT... BLAZING..."



"...LIGHT FLOODING ME..."

"...PAINTING MY
SHADOWS ON
THE WALLS..."

"THE SHADOWS LIVE...
FORCING ME TO BATTLE
THEM..."



THE SECRET,
SHANG-CHI--
WHAT IS THE
SECRET?!

"MY FATHER SPEAKS...
THROUGH MY
SHADOWS..."

"THE SHADOWS ARE GONE.
HAVE I DEFEATED THEM?
WHERE IS THE GIRL?"

"DOES HE KNOW... THERE IS FIRE IN MY VEINS...?"

THE SCIENTIST WAS ENGAGED IN **SECRET RESEARCH**, SHANG-CHI. HE **TOLD** YOU HIS SECRET. IT WAS A **WEAPON**, WASN'T IT? A NEW STRAIN OF **BACTERIA**...

YOU CANNOT DEFEY ME FOR **LONG**, SHANG-CHI. YOUR **MIND** DWELLS IN **MADNESS**. YOUR **FLESH** SHALL SOON **ROT** IN THE STINKING EARTH. I **CONTROL** YOUR MIND, SHANG-CHI, AND I SHALL **POUR** IT INTO THE **DEPTHS** OF **DEMENTIA** IF YOU DO NOT TELL ME THE SECRET!

"**PROFESSOR CHEN...**
SANDY'S FATHER... HE **LEARNED** TO ME...
WHISPERED... I MUST NOT TELL... HIS SECRET..."

"A **WIND HOWLS** THROUGH THE **PORES** OF MY **SKIN** AND **WRAPS** MY **HEART** IN A **HURRICANE**. MY **BLOWS** GLOW **PURPLE** AND **PAIN SPURTS** FROM MY **FINGERTIPS**..."

"**LIZARDS SCALE** MY **LEGS** AND **COVER** ME IN **SLIME**."

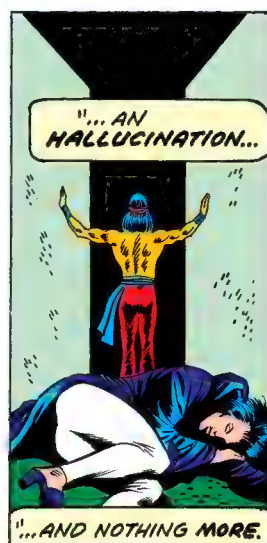
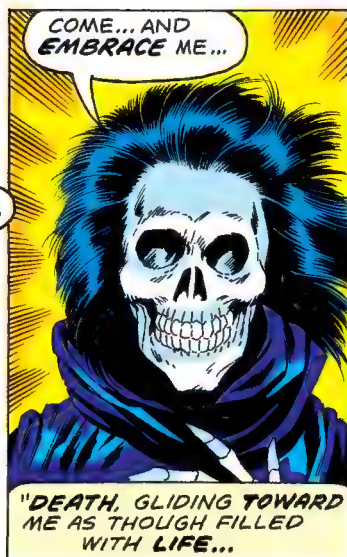
"A **SNAKE** ENTERS MY **MOUTH** ON A **PARK BENCH**."

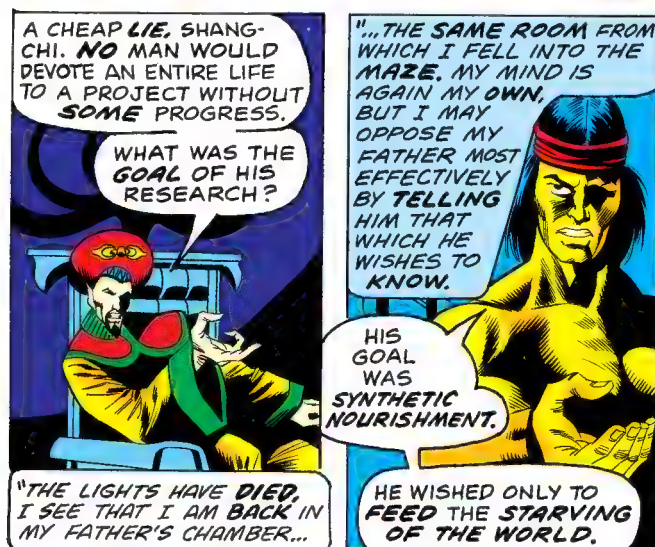
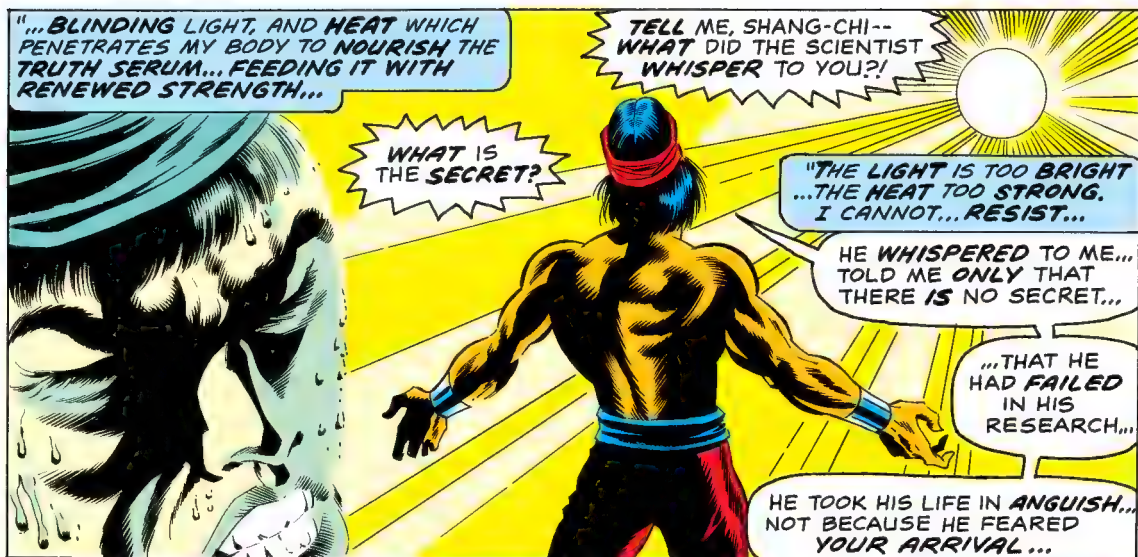
"THE **BENCH** **MELTS** AND **RISES** TO **SWALLOW** US. WE ARE IN THE **BELLY** OF AN **ASSASSIN**. THE **ASSASSIN** **SWALLOWS** **POISON**."

"WE **MELT** AND **DISSOLVE** INTO A **VAST PLANE** OF **GREAT DISTANCE** **SWEEPED** BY **WINDS** OF **FIRE** AND **ICE**."

"THERE IS **TORMENT** AND **DEPRAVITY** **SEALED** IN THE **PLANE** WE HAVE **BECOME**. WE **CONSUME** IT. IT **CONSUMES** US. **NAKED DEATH** **LEERS**. **HOPE DIES**."

"**NO**. THIS IS **FALSE**. **TRUTH SERUM**... **HALLUCINATIONS**... I AM **MAD** FOR A **TIME**... AND THE **MAZE** **REAPPEARS**..."





"...AND LISTEN, INSTEAD, TO THE EXPLOSIVE SOUNDS OF ASSAULT NOW ISSUING FROM A DIFFERENT SECTION OF THIS STRUCTURE.

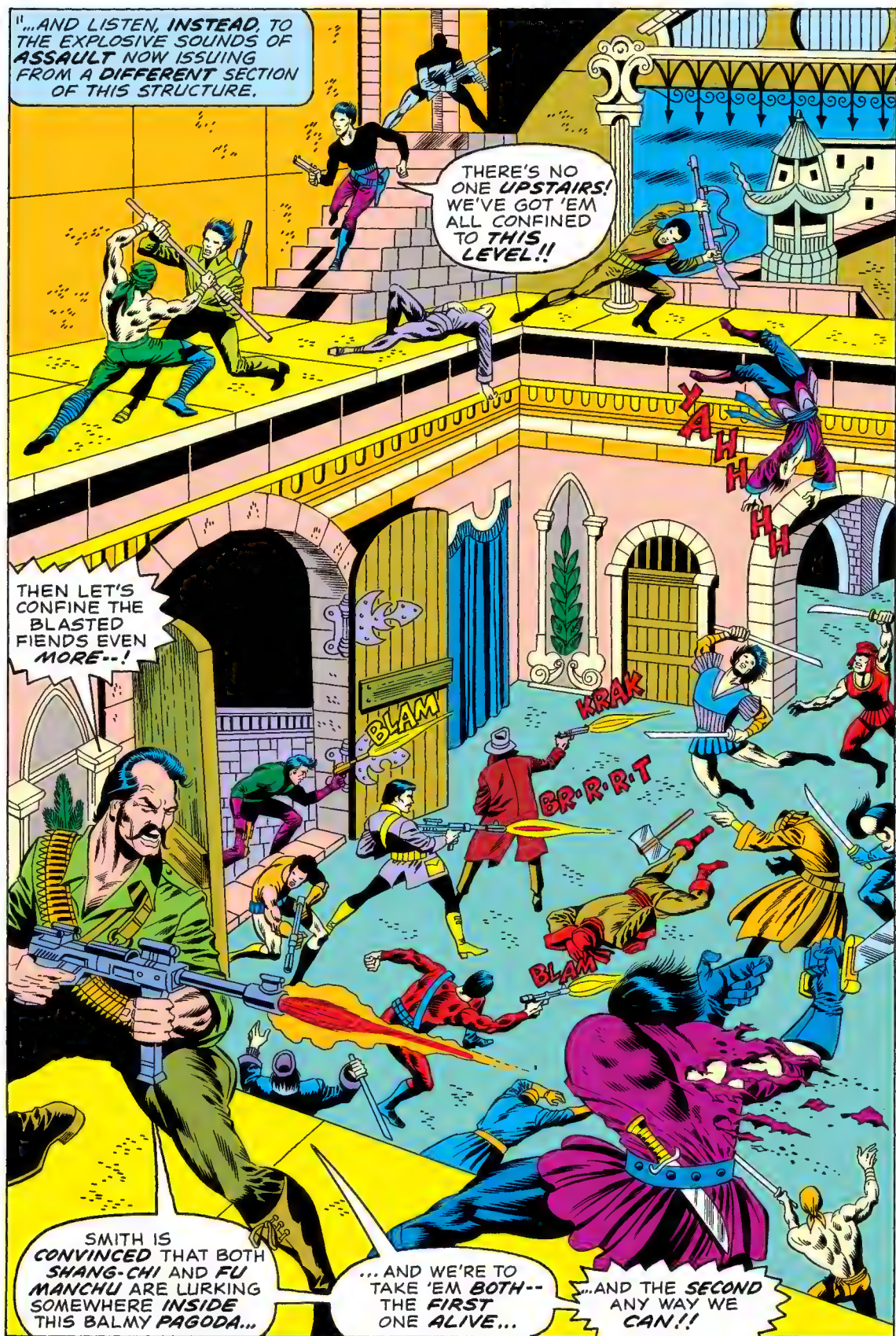
THERE'S NO ONE UPSTAIRS! WE'VE GOT 'EM ALL CONFINED TO THIS LEVEL!!

THEN LET'S CONFINE THE BLASTED FIENDS EVEN MORE--!

SMITH IS CONVINCED THAT BOTH SHANG-CHI AND FU MANCHU ARE LURKING SOMEWHERE INSIDE THIS BALMY PAGODA...

... AND WE'RE TO TAKE 'EM BOTH-- THE FIRST ONE ALIVE...

...AND THE SECOND ANY WAY WE CAN!!



"THE TRUTH SERUM HAS FLED MY BODY. EXERTION, ENFORCED BY THE SI-FANI, HAS RELEASED NATURAL FLUIDS INTO MY BLOOD, FLUSHING THE DRUG AWAY..."

CHUD FWAK

"STILL, DANGER FOLLOWS MY EVERY MOVEMENT..."

"...FOR THE ASSASSINS ARE SKILLED, AND MANY IN NUMBER..."

SWOK!

"...WHILE I AM BUT ONE."

"BUT NOW, ABRUPTLY, I AM JOINED--"

"--BY A STITCHED PATTERN OF BULLETS."

AGHGH--!!

LOOKS LIKE FU MANCHU GOT AWAY AGAIN... EH, SIR DENIS?

YES, BLACK JACK--AND I'M BEGINNING TO THINK ANY OTHER OUTCOME IS IMPOSSIBLE.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SHANG-CHI?

MY BODY WILL HEAL, SIR DENIS...

BUT MY MIND... WAS CONTROLLED BY MY FATHER...

I SAW A MAZE... AND BELIEVED MYSELF TO PASS THROUGH IT. WAS IT... REAL...?

THERE WAS A MAZE, ALL RIGHT-- STARTING DOWNSTAIRS AND LEADING UP TO THIS LEVEL ON A SLANT. DEVILISHLY CLEVER AFFAIR.

AND THE GIRL--?

SANDRA.

YES, WE FOUND HER AS WELL... OUTSIDE THE MAZE...

I'M AFRAID SHE'S...

...DEAD.



MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



25¢
©

23
DEC
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



TM

TM

MARTIAL-ARTS
ACTION
IN THE MIGHTY
MARVEL
MANNER!



DOOMS WAIT FOR SHANG-CHI...
IN THE RIVER OF
DEATH!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

RIVER OF DEATH!

"THE NIGHT FAILS TO SOOTHE MY TROUBLED THOUGHTS."

"MY EYES CROSS WATER TO THE GIFT OF A SYMBOL."

"IT IS A STATUE WHICH REPRESENTS FREEDOM WON AT THE COST OF DEATH..."

"...AND WHILE MY STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY RENDER SUCH A CONCEPT FALSE, MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE NATURE OF MAN DICTATES THAT FALLACY IS OFTEN TRUTH."

"THUS, LIBERTY BECOMES THE REWARD OF BATTLE... WHETHER AGAINST A LEAGUE OF NATIONS..."

"...OR THE UPRaised HAND OF A SINGLE MAN."

DOUG MOENCH AL MILGROM & K. JANSON
WRITER ARTISTS

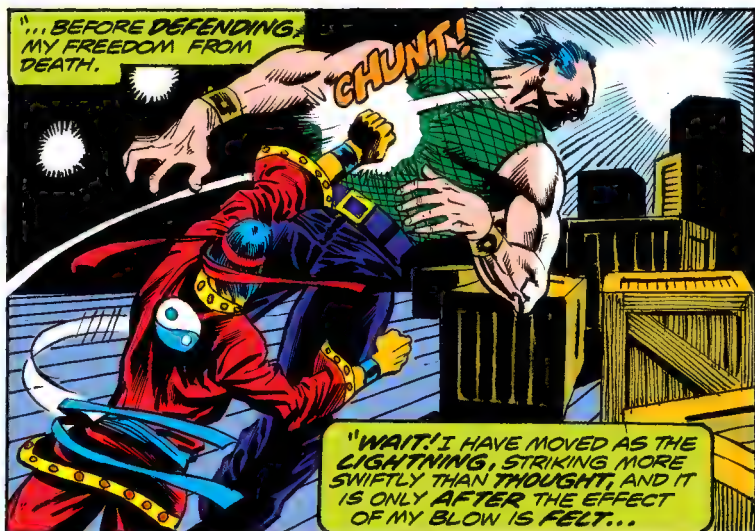
JOHN COSTANZA L. LESSMANN ROY THOMAS
letterer colorist editor



"THE HAND TOUCHES MY SHOULDER LONG MOMENTS AFTER I HAVE HEARD ITS APPROACH."

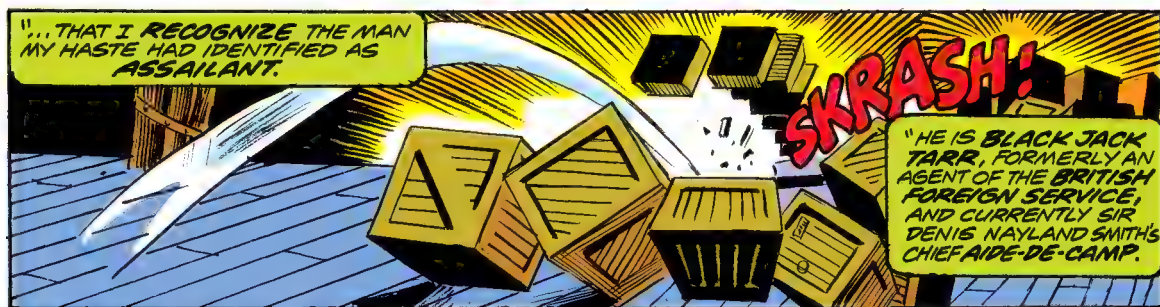
THAP!

"BUT I HAVE WAITED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE..."



"... BEFORE DEFENDING MY FREEDOM FROM DEATH."

"WAIT! I HAVE MOVED AS THE LIGHTNING, STRIKING MORE SWIFTLY THAN THOUGHT, AND IT IS ONLY AFTER THE EFFECT OF MY BLOW IS FELT..."



"... THAT I RECOGNIZE THE MAN MY HASTE HAD IDENTIFIED AS ASSAILANT."

"HE IS **BLACK JACK TARR**, FORMERLY AN AGENT OF THE **BRITISH FOREIGN SERVICE**, AND CURRENTLY SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH'S CHIEF AIDE-DE-CAMP."



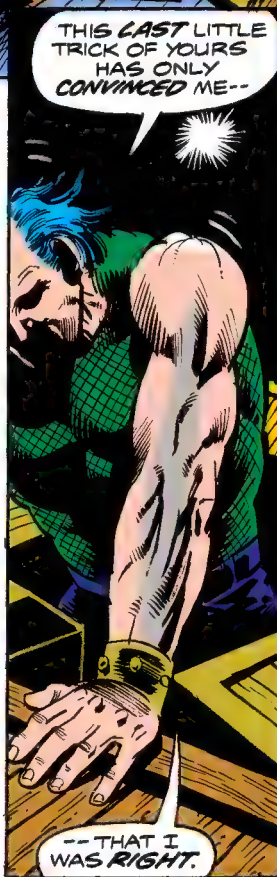
THAT DOES IT, CHINAMAN--!

SIR DENIS IS AN OLD MATE OF MINE, AND UP UNTIL NOW I'VE RESPECTED HIS WISHES THAT I PLAY CRICKET WITH YOU...



BUT YOU'RE STILL FU MANCHU'S SON--

--AND I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN YOU'D NEVER CHANGE.



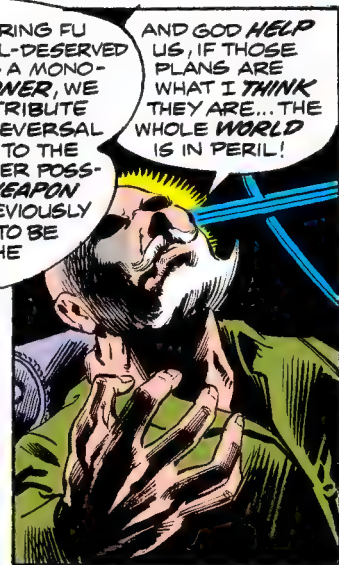
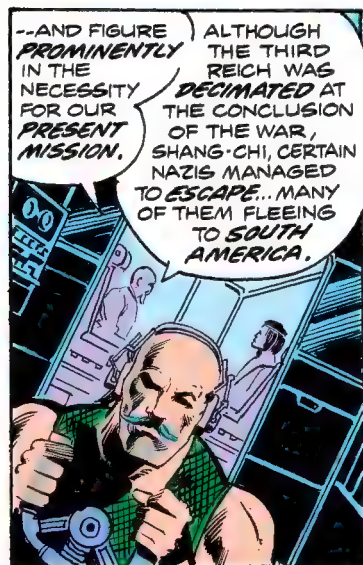
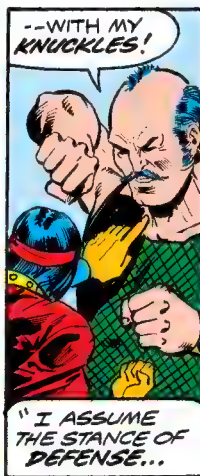
THIS LAST LITTLE TRICK OF YOURS HAS ONLY CONVINCED ME--

-- THAT I WAS RIGHT.



YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME, SHANG-CHI...

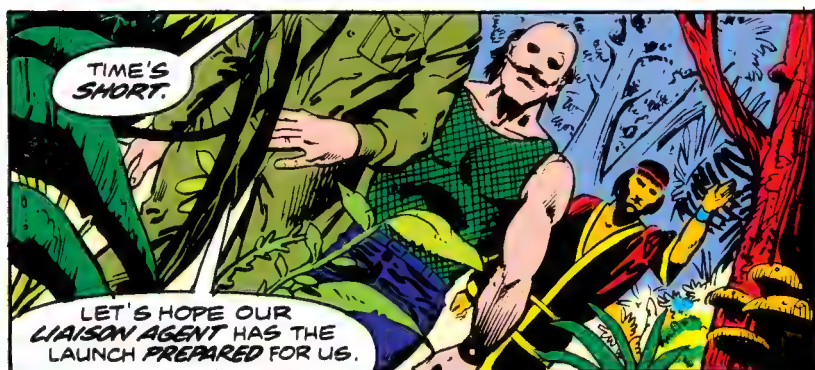
...AND OLD **BLACK JACK** IS JUST THE BLOKE TO PUT YOU BACK IN YOUR PROPER PLACE.



"SMITH'S PLANE REACHES A LOCATION DEEP WITHIN THIS COUNTRY'S BEAUTIFUL TERRAIN. THE AMAZON RIVER TWISTS THROUGH THE DENSE RAIN FORESTS BELOW US..."

"...AND WE DESCEND TO A CRUDE LANDING STRIP CUT FROM THE JUNGLE ITSELF."

"SMITH HAS INFORMED ME THAT IT IS HERE WE WILL BE JOINED BY A FOURTH MAN..."



TIME'S SHORT.

LET'S HOPE OUR LIAISON AGENT HAS THE LAUNCH PREPARED FOR US.



HELLO--! I'M NAYLAND SMITH... AND YOU, I PRESUME, ARE RAYMOND STRAWN.

THAT'S RIGHT-- I'M STRAWN...

...AND YOU'RE MORE THAN TWO HOURS LATE!! BASED ON THE CALCULATIONS YOU RADIOED TO ME, THAT PUTS FU MANCHU SEVEN HOURS AHEAD OF US--!



NOW-- SINCE I'VE ALREADY LOADED THIS SCOW MYSELF...



...I'M ADVISING YOU TO GET YOUR TAILS ABOARD FAST-- BEFORE I DECIDE TO MAN IT MYSELF.

THAT STINKING YELLOW SCUM ISN'T GOING TO WAIT FOR US.

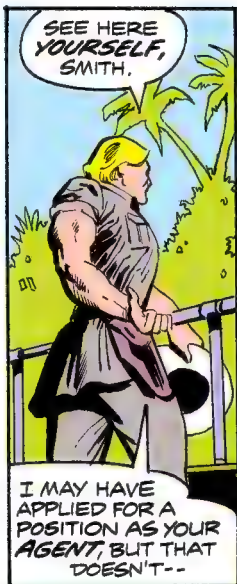


"IT IS CLEAR--"



"--THAT HE HAS NOT YET SEEN ME."

SEE HERE, STRAWN, I--

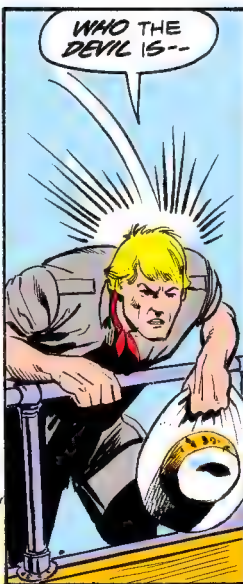


SEE HERE YOURSELF, SMITH.

I MAY HAVE APPLIED FOR A POSITION AS YOUR AGENT, BUT THAT DOESN'T--



WHAT--?!



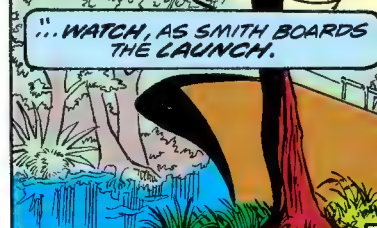
WHO THE DEVIL IS--



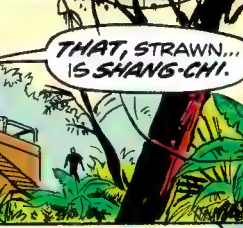
--THAT?!!



"I..."



...WATCH, AS SMITH BOARDS THE LAUNCH.



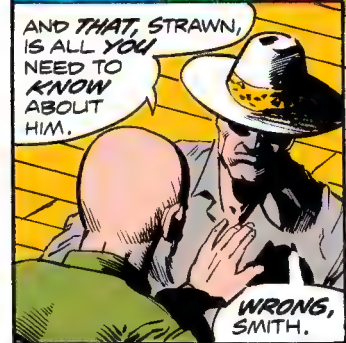
THAT, STRAWN... IS SHANG-CHI.



HE IS A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN INVALUABLE TO ME ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

HE IS THE ONE PERSON MORE EQUIPPED FOR THIS MISSION THAN ANY I CAN IMAGINE.

AND HE IS A TRUSTED FRIEND.



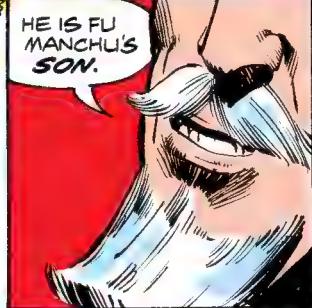
AND THAT, STRAWN, IS ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HIM.

WRONG, SMITH.



I CAN SEE WHAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HIM. AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO SHARE THIS BOAT WITH HIS LIKES.

JUST WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS ANYWAY?!

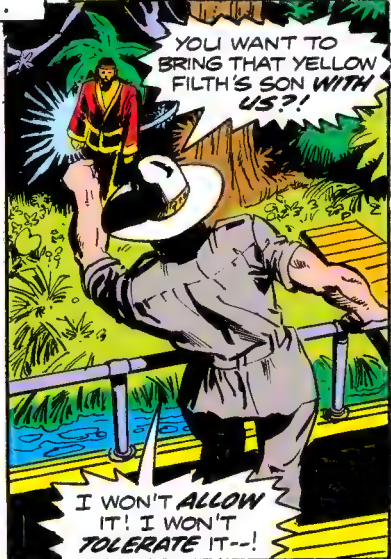


HE IS FU MANCHU'S SON.



HE'S... WHAT--?!

ARE YOU INSANE?!



YOU WANT TO BRING THAT YELLOW FILTH'S SON WITH US?!

I WON'T ALLOW IT! I WON'T TOLERATE IT--!

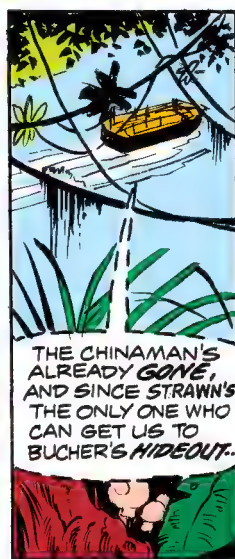
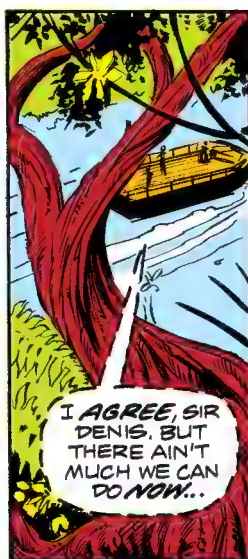
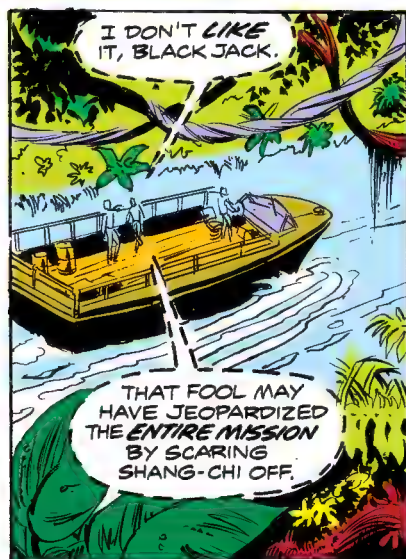


I SAY YOU WILL TOLERATE IT.

AND I ALSO SAY YOU'LL SHUT UP-- RIGHT NOW!

WH-WHO...?

BLACK JACK TARR, DON'T FORGET IT.



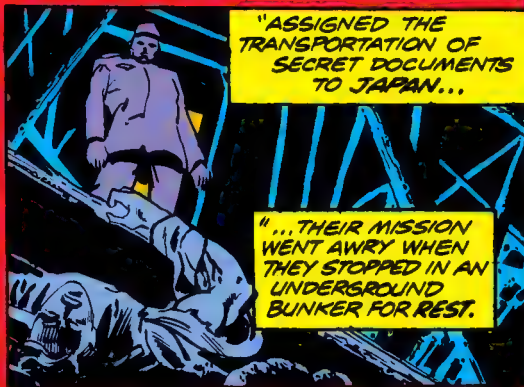


"... FOR WILHELM BUCHER WAS PERHAPS THE MOST LOYAL OFFICER IN THE ENTIRE THIRD REICH, AS WELL AS A FOREMOST AND FANATICAL ADHERENT TO THE FUHRER'S ABHORRENT 'MASTER RACE' POGROM. INDEED, BUCHER'S HATRED FOR THE SO-CALLED 'INFERIOR' RACES MAY HAVE EXCEEDED HITLER'S OWN..."

"...AS DEMONSTRATED BY HIS VOCAL DISSENTION TO GERMANY'S ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN, NOTHING SHORT OF HITLER'S PERSONAL ORDERS--



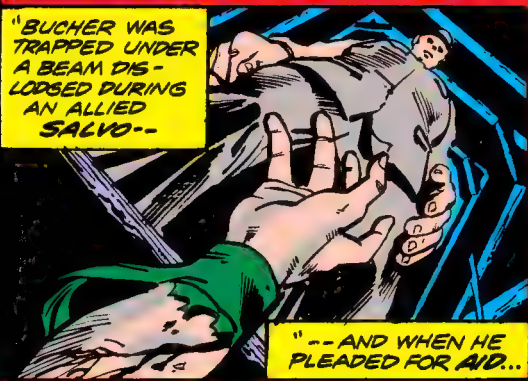
"--COULD HAVE FORCED BUCHER TO ACCEPT A JAPANESE AS HIS SOLE ASSISTANT IN AN UNDER-COVER MISSION.



"ASSIGNED THE TRANSPORTATION OF SECRET DOCUMENTS TO JAPAN..."

"...THEIR MISSION WENT AWRY WHEN THEY STOPPED IN AN UNDERGROUND BUNKER FOR REST.

"BUCHER WAS TRAPPED UNDER A BEAM DIS-LODGED DURING AN ALLIED SALVO--



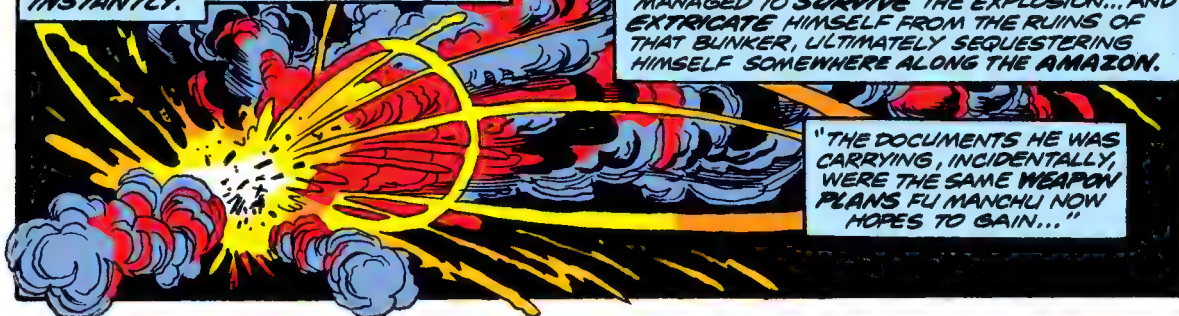
"-- AND WHEN HE PLEADED FOR AID..."

"...THE JAPANESE OFFICER MERELY FLED..."



"...LIVING TO TELL THE STORY I'M NOW TELLING YOU.

"A SECOND BARRAGE OF MORTAR SHELLING WAS UNLEASHED MOMENTS LATER, PRESUMABLY KILLING BUCHER INSTANTLY.

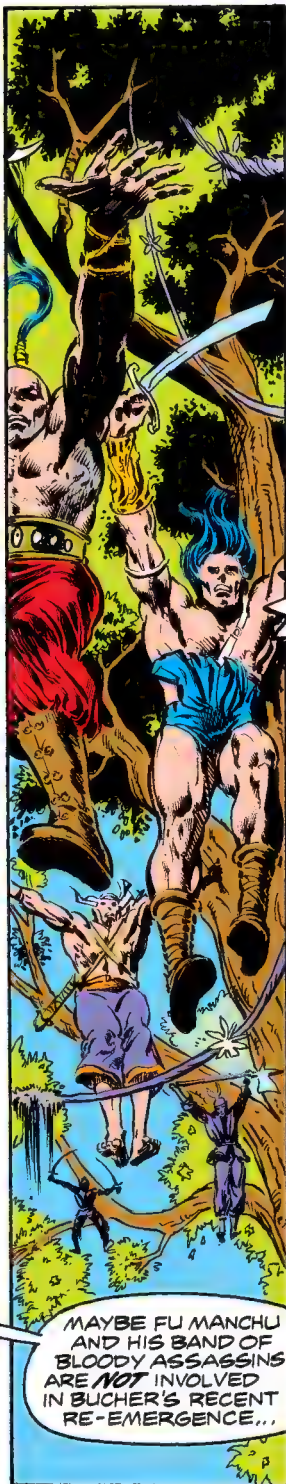


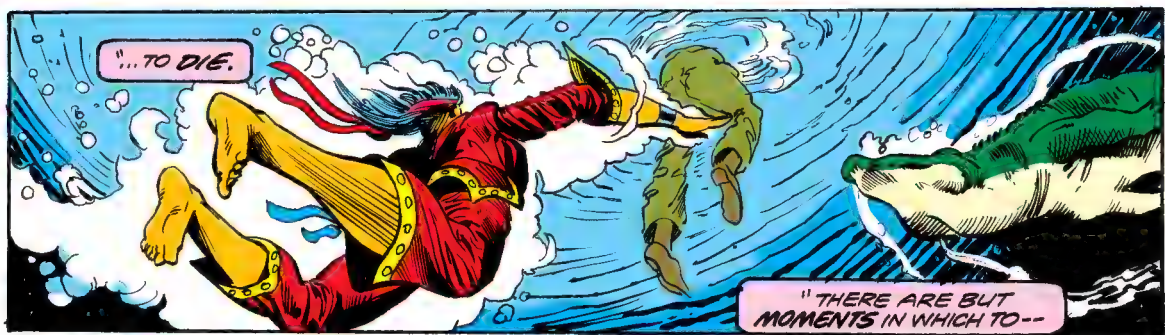
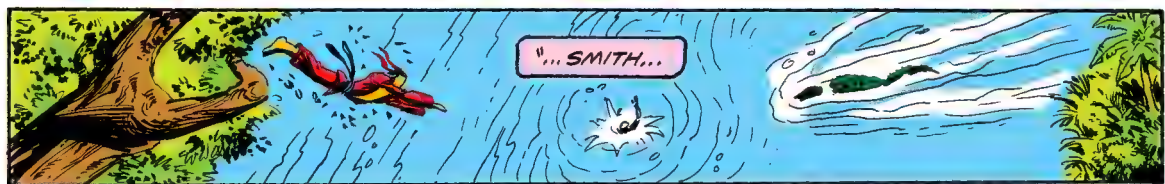
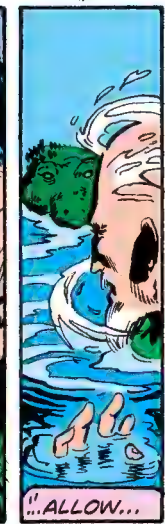
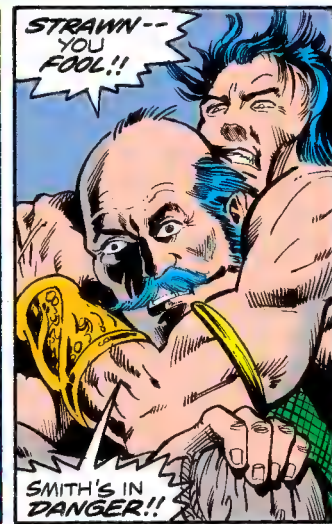
"HOWEVER, WE NOW KNOW THAT HE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO SURVIVE THE EXPLOSION... AND EXTRICATE HIMSELF FROM THE RUINS OF THAT BUNKER, ULTIMATELY SEQUESTERING HIMSELF SOMEWHERE ALONG THE AMAZON.

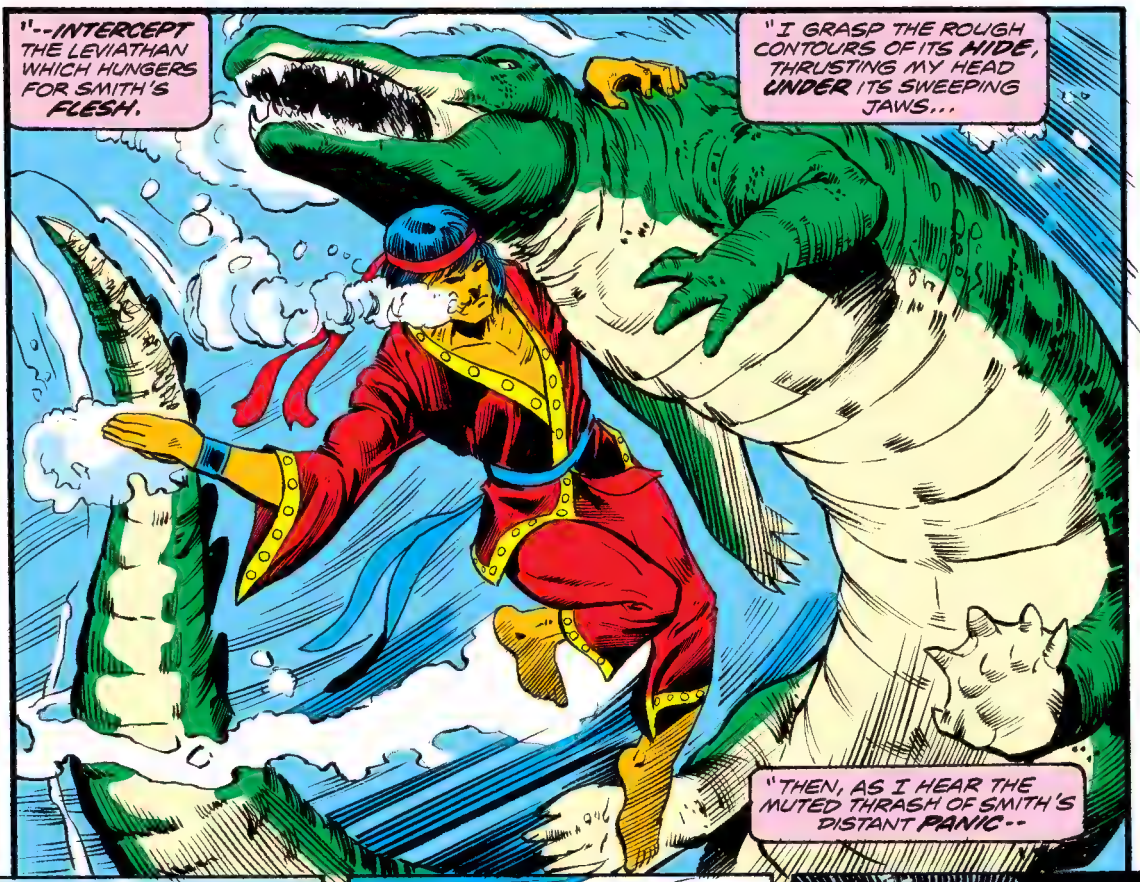
"THE DOCUMENTS HE WAS CARRYING, INCIDENTALLY, WERE THE SAME WEAPON PLANS FU MANCHU NOW HOPES TO GAIN..."

BUT I'M SURE YOU SEE WHAT I'M **GETTING** AT, BLACK JACK. GIVEN BUCHER'S FIERCE HATRED OF ALL **NON-ARYAN RACES**, AND THE FACT THAT A **JAPANESE** ENACTED WHAT IS CERTAIN TO BE TANTAMOUNT TO **TREACHERY** IN HIS MIND --

--THE VERY ACT OF **CONSOLIDATING** WITH AN ORIENTAL-- EVEN A **CHINESE** LIKE FU MANCHU-- WOULD SEEM **INIMICAL** TO THE VERY FOUNDATIONS TO HIS TWISTED **PRINCIPLES**.







"--INTERCEPT THE LEVIATHAN WHICH HUNGERS FOR SMITH'S FLESH.

"I GRASP THE ROUGH CONTOURS OF ITS *HIDE*, THRUSTING MY HEAD UNDER ITS SWEEPING JAWS...

"THEN, AS I HEAR THE MUTED THRASH OF SMITH'S DISTANT PANIC--



"--I STRIKE.

"BUT THE WATER HAS DROWNED THE *STRENGTH* OF MY BLOW...

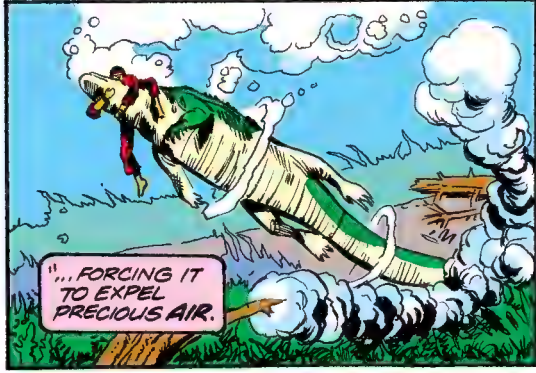


"...WEAKENED IT TO THE STING OF A NOISOME *INSECT*.

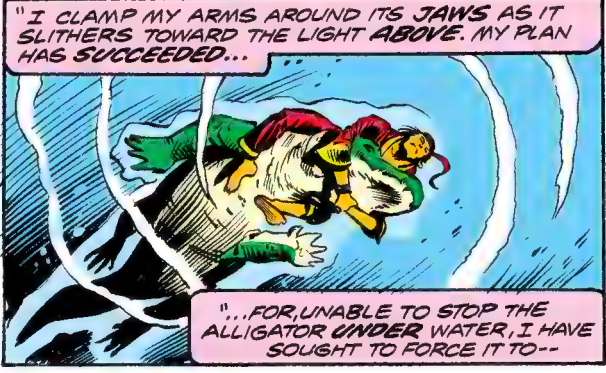


"THERE IS LITTLE TIME.

"I STRIKE AGAIN, MY FINGERS GOUGING DEEPLY INTO THE REPTILE'S SOFT *UNDERBELLY*...

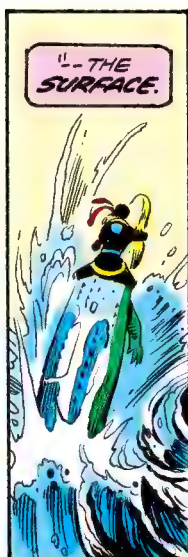


"...FORCING IT TO EXPEL PRECIOUS AIR.



"I CLAMP MY ARMS AROUND ITS *JAWS* AS IT SLITHERS TOWARD THE LIGHT ABOVE. MY PLAN HAS *SUCCEEDED*...

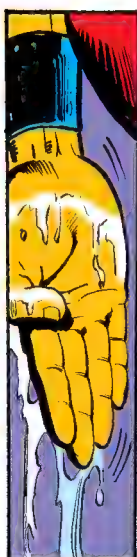
"...FOR, UNABLE TO STOP THE ALLIGATOR *UNDER* WATER, I HAVE SOUGHT TO FORCE IT TO--



"--THE SURFACE."



HAI--



--YAH!!



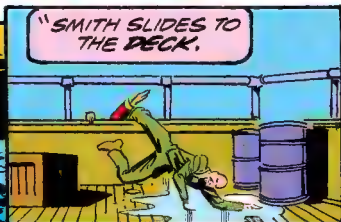
SHANG...

...CHI...

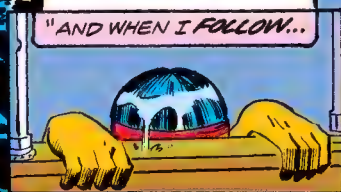


... I ...
KNEW...

... YOU
WOULDN'T...
DESERT
ME...



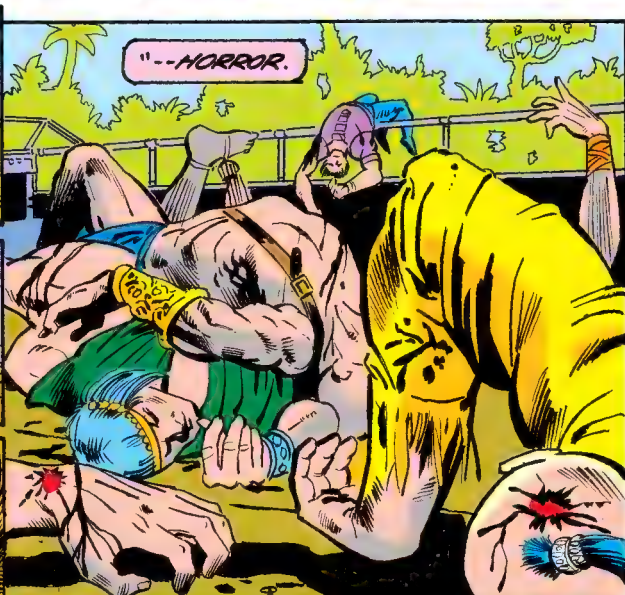
"SMITH SLIDES TO
THE DECK."



"AND WHEN I FOLLOW..."



"... I SEE --"



"--HORROR."



YES, SIR...
ALL THE FANCY
KUNG FU FIGHTING
IN THE WORLD--

--DOESN'T MEAN A
THING TO A MAN
WITH A GOOD GUN
IN HIS HANDS.



"...!!"



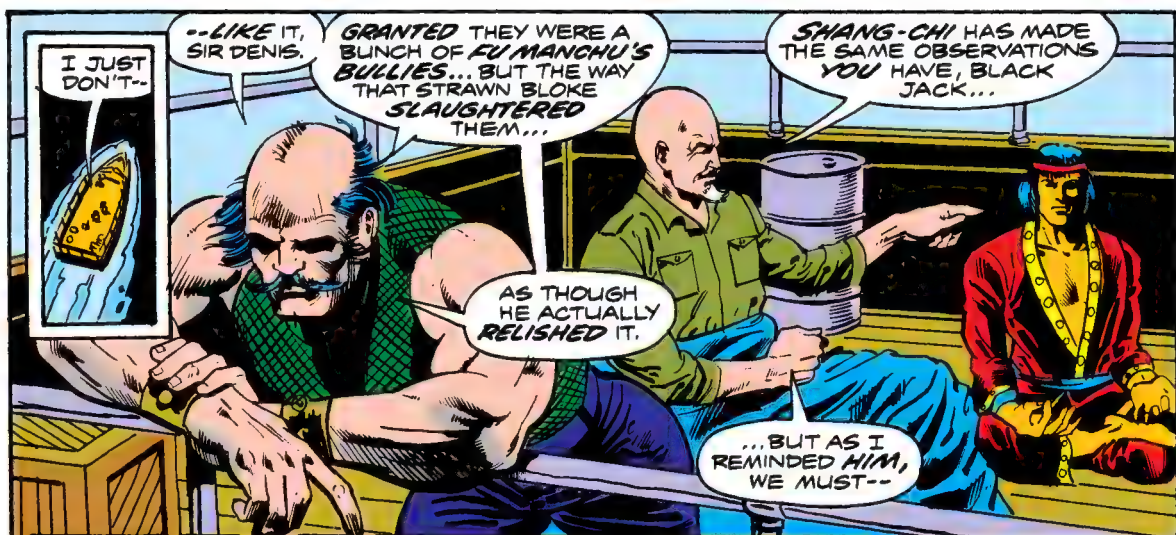
SHANG-CHI--
PLEASE...

DON'T
HARM
HIM.



I KNOW IT SETS YOUR
TEETH ON EDGE, BUT
IF HE DOESN'T LEAD
US TO BUCHER'S EN-
CAMPMENT...

...THE ENTIRE
WORLD WILL PAY.



I JUST DON'T--

--LIKE IT, SIR DENIS.

GRANTED THEY WERE A BUNCH OF FU MANCHU'S BULLIES... BUT THE WAY THAT STRAWN BLOKE SLAUGHTERED THEM...

SHANG-CHI HAS MADE THE SAME OBSERVATIONS YOU HAVE, BLACK JACK...

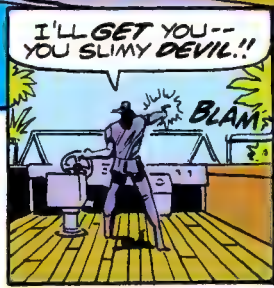
AS THOUGH HE ACTUALLY RELISHED IT.

...BUT AS I REMINDED HIM, WE MUST--

BLAM



EH?!



I'LL GET YOU-- YOU SLIMY DEVIL!!

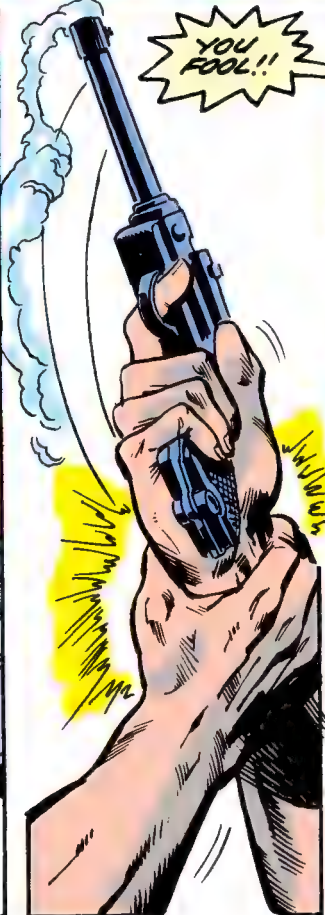
BLAM!



BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

BEEN RIGHT AHEAD OF US FOR MILES--

-- JUST AROUND THE NEXT BEND OF THIS LOUSY TWISTING RIVER!



YOU FOOL!!

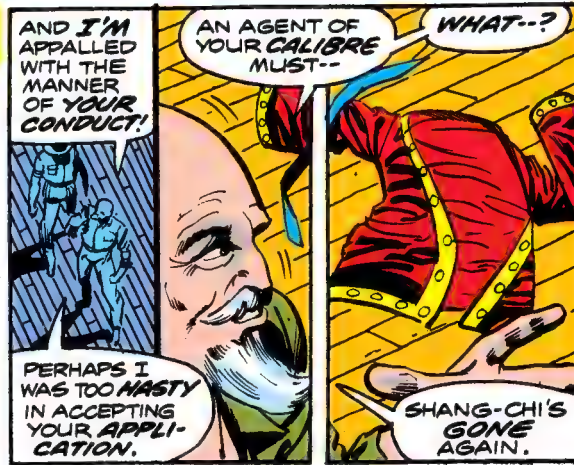


YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY HOPE TO HIT HIM FROM HERE--!

ALL YOU'VE DONE IS ALERTED HIM TO OUR PRESENCE.



LOOK, SMITH-- I'M SICK OF YOU AND YOUR SANCTIMONIOUS INTERFERENCE--!



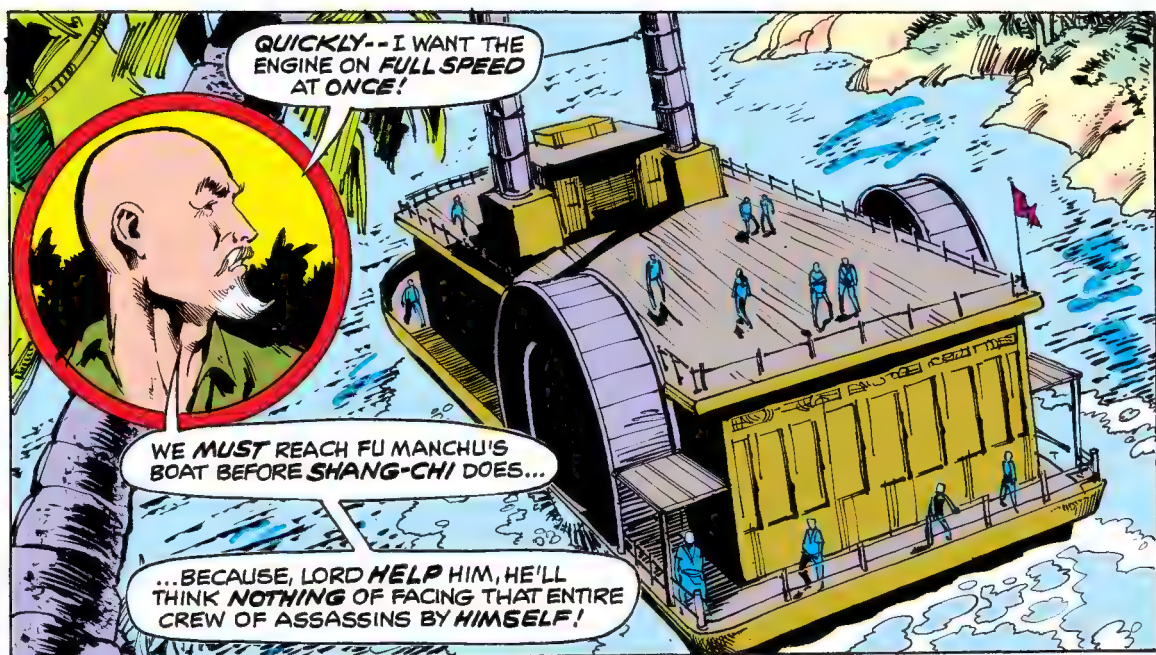
AND I'M APPALLED WITH THE MANNER OF YOUR CONDUCT!

AN AGENT OF YOUR CALIBRE MUST--

WHAT--?

PERHAPS I WAS TOO HASTY IN ACCEPTING YOUR APPLICATION.

SHANG-CHI'S GONE AGAIN.



QUICKLY-- I WANT THE ENGINE ON **FULL SPEED** AT ONCE!

WE **MUST** REACH FU MANCHU'S BOAT BEFORE **SHANG-CHI** DOES...

... BECAUSE, LORD **HELP** HIM, HE'LL THINK **NOTHING** OF FACING THAT ENTIRE CREW OF ASSASSINS BY **HIMSELF**!

"MY BREATH PAINTS ITSELF IN BUBBLES GREETING AIR..."

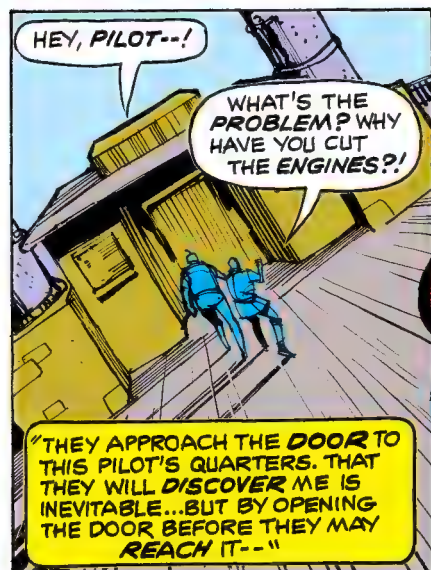
"...BUT MY PRESENCE IS NOT DISCOVERED."

-- SEVEN MORE MILES TO THE OUTPOST.

"...UNTIL..."

SWOK

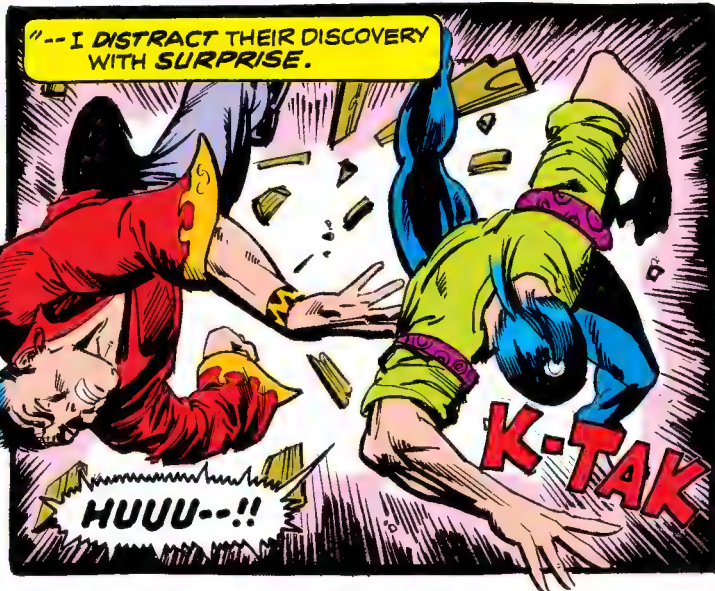
THE ENGINES--!



HEY, PILOT--!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? WHY HAVE YOU CUT THE ENGINES?!

"THEY APPROACH THE **DOOR** TO THIS PILOT'S QUARTERS. THAT THEY WILL **DISCOVER** ME IS INEVITABLE...BUT BY OPENING THE **DOOR** BEFORE THEY MAY **REACH** IT--"



"-- I **DISTRACT** THEIR **DISCOVERY** WITH **SURPRISE**.

K-TAK

HUUU--!!

"I BURST THROUGH THE SHATTERED DOOR, LEAPING OVER THEIR SPRAWLED FORMS. THERE IS CONFUSION AS THE REMAINING SI-FAN GATHER TO CONFRONT ME..."

"...AND CONFUSION IS THE RESPONSE I HAVE SOUGHT."

IT IS SHANG CHI!!

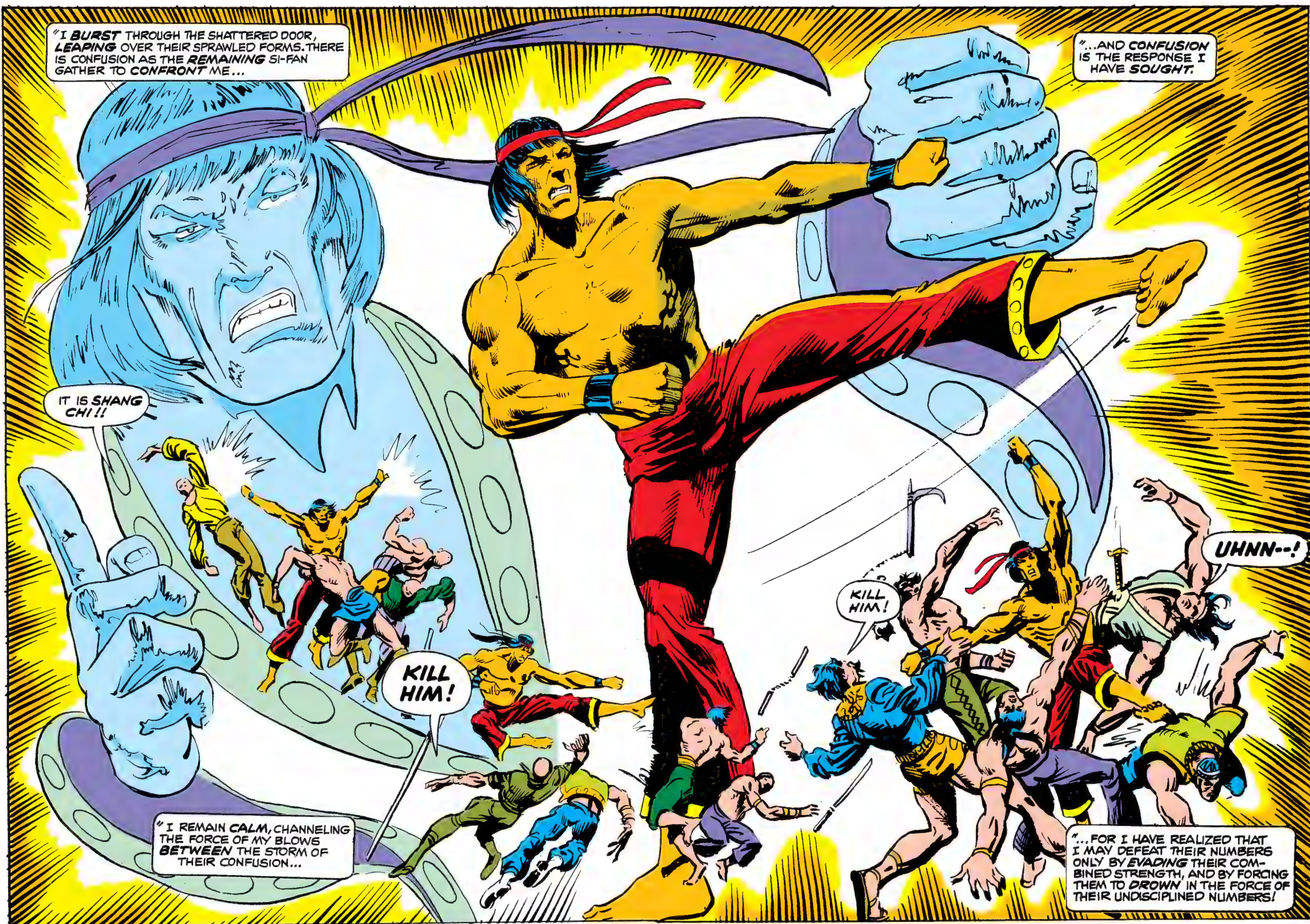
KILL HIM!

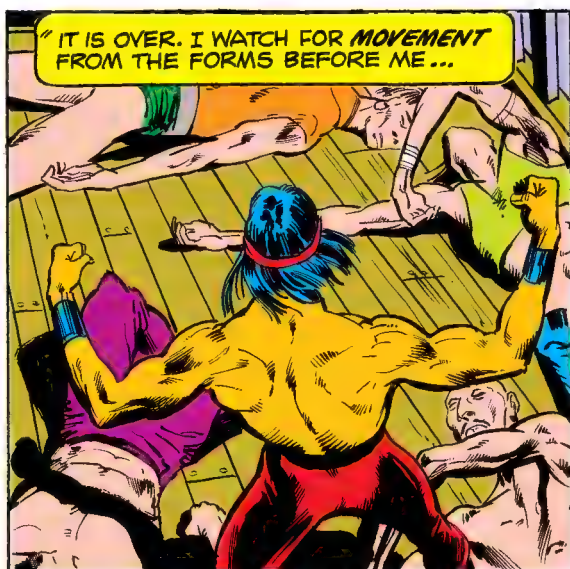
KILL HIM!

UHHN--!

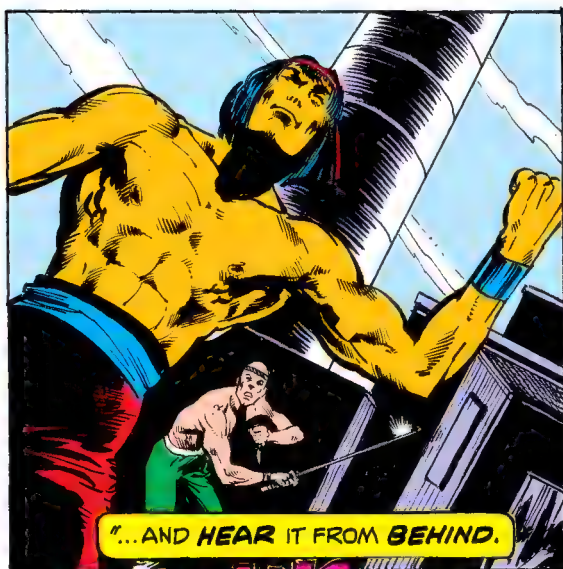
"I REMAIN CALM, CHANNELING THE FORCE OF MY BLOWS BETWEEN THE STORM OF THEIR CONFUSION..."

"...FOR I HAVE REALIZED THAT I MAY DEFEAT THEIR NUMBERS ONLY BY EVADING THEIR COMBINED STRENGTH, AND BY FORCING THEM TO DROWN IN THE FORCE OF THEIR UNDISCIPLINED NUMBERS!"

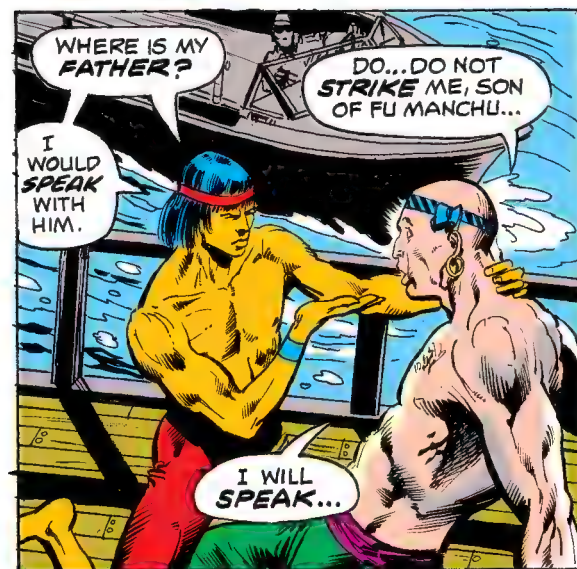




"IT IS OVER. I WATCH FOR *MOVEMENT* FROM THE FORMS BEFORE ME...



"...AND HEAR IT FROM *BEHIND*."



WHERE IS MY FATHER?

DO...DO NOT STRIKE ME, SON OF FU MANCHU...

I WOULD SPEAK WITH HIM.

I WILL SPEAK...



FU MANCHU IS NOT *HERE*...

HE HAS *NEVER* BEEN ABOARD THIS BOAT...

THEN WHERE *IS* HE?

HE...HE TAKES AN *AIR ROUTE* TO THE OUTPOST IN HIS *HELICOPTER*.

"THEN, EVEN AS THE ASSASSIN SPEAKS, I AM AWARE THAT *SMITH'S BOAT* DRAWS *ALONGSIDE*..."



IT'S A LIE!!

THE CHINESE KID LET FU MANCHU ESCAPE!!



HE JUMPED OUR SHIP TO GET UP HERE AND WARN HIM!!

BUT I WON'T BE DECEIVED BY INFERIOR SCUM--!



IT HAPPENED ONCE--

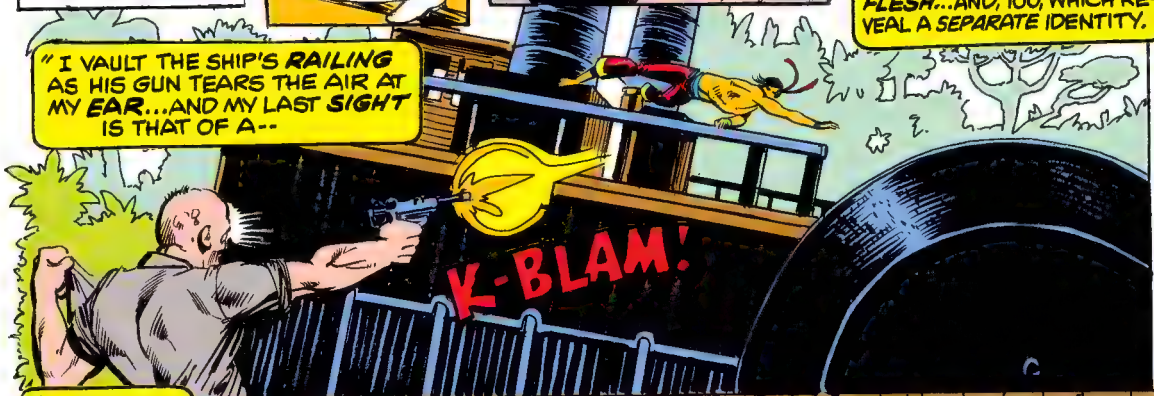
--IN A BOMBED-OUT BUNKER...



...BUT I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!!

"THE MAN CALLED STRAWN HAS PEELED HIS FALSE FACE TO REVEAL SCARS WHICH SPOIL MORE THAN FLESH...AND, TOO, WHICH REVEAL A SEPARATE IDENTITY.

"I VAULT THE SHIP'S RAILING AS HIS GUN TEARS THE AIR AT MY EAR...AND MY LAST SIGHT IS THAT OF A--



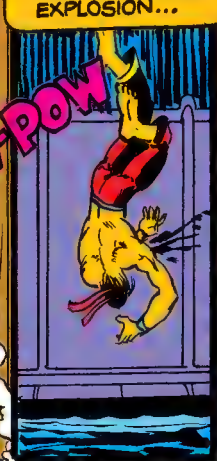
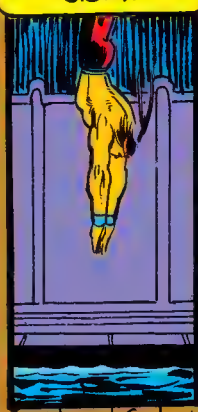
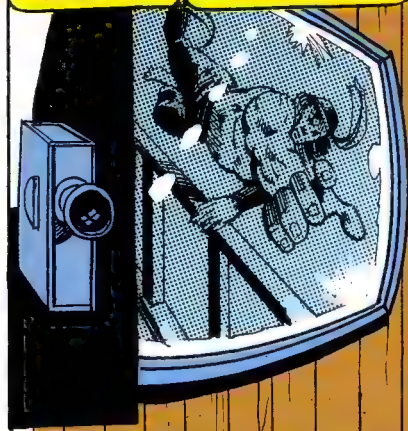
K-BLAM!

--CAMERA MOUNTED ON THE PILOT'S CABIN.

I AM BEING OBSERVED FROM A DISTANCE...

...UNTIL I LEAVE THE CAMERA'S SIGHT.

I HEAR A SECOND EXPLOSION...



K-POW



...AND FEEL PAIN...

...BEFORE MEETING THE WATER.

SPLASH!

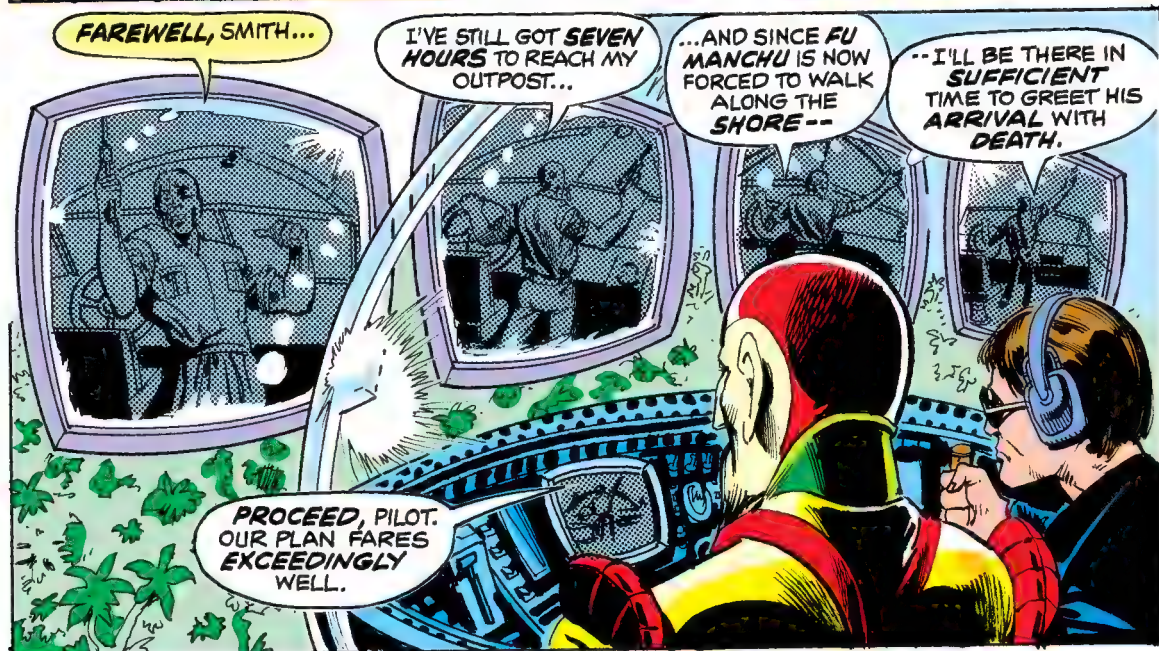




ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO--
ONTO THE OTHER *BOAT*.

YOU WERE A *FOOL*, SMITH...
ACCEPTING ME AS ONE OF
YOUR *AGENTS*...

DON'T BE A *FOOL* BY TRYING
TO *FOLLOW* ME. YOU'LL ONLY GET
IN THE *WAY*--AND I *REMOVE*
WHATEVER GETS IN MY WAY.



FAREWELL, SMITH...

I'VE STILL GOT *SEVEN*
HOURS TO REACH MY
OUTPOST...

...AND SINCE *FU*
MANCHU IS NOW
FORCED TO WALK
ALONG THE
SHORE--

--I'LL BE THERE IN
SUFFICIENT
TIME TO GREET HIS
ARRIVAL WITH
DEATH.

PROCEED, PILOT.
OUR PLAN FARES
EXCEEDINGLY
WELL.

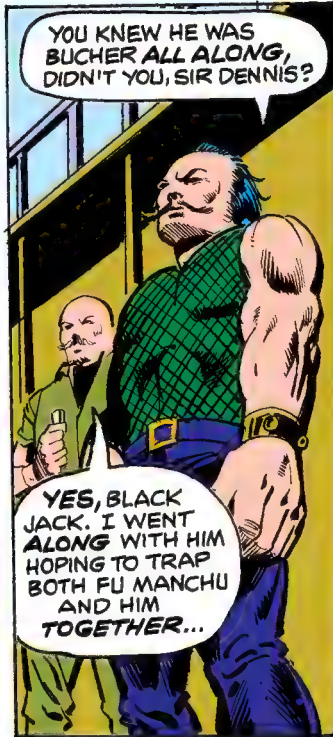


BUCHER WAS A
FOOL TO THINK I
WOULD FORM AN
ALLIANCE WITH
ANY MAN...

...AND HE IS
AN EVEN
GREATER
FOOL--

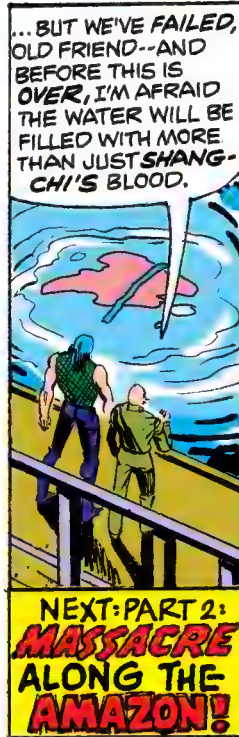


--TO PRESUME THAT
I WOULD *SUCCUMB*
TO HIS PITIFUL *TRAP*.



YOU KNEW HE WAS
BUCHER ALL ALONG,
DIDN'T YOU, SIR DENNIS?

YES, BLACK
JACK. I WENT
ALONG WITH HIM
HOPING TO TRAP
BOTH *FU* *MANCHU*
AND HIM
TOGETHER...



...BUT WE'VE FAILED,
OLD FRIEND--AND
BEFORE THIS IS
OVER, I'M AFRAID
THE WATER WILL BE
FILLED WITH MORE
THAN JUST *SHANG-
CHI'S* BLOOD.

NEXT: PART 2:
MASSACRE
ALONG THE
AMAZON!

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUPTM



25¢
©

24
JAN
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



THE SON OF FU MANCHU
CAUGHT IN A DEADLY
CROSS-FIRE!

MARTIAL-ARTS
ACTION--
AS ONLY MIGHTY
MARVEL CAN
PRESENT IT!



**"THE NIGHT OF THE
ASSASSIN!"**

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China, retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

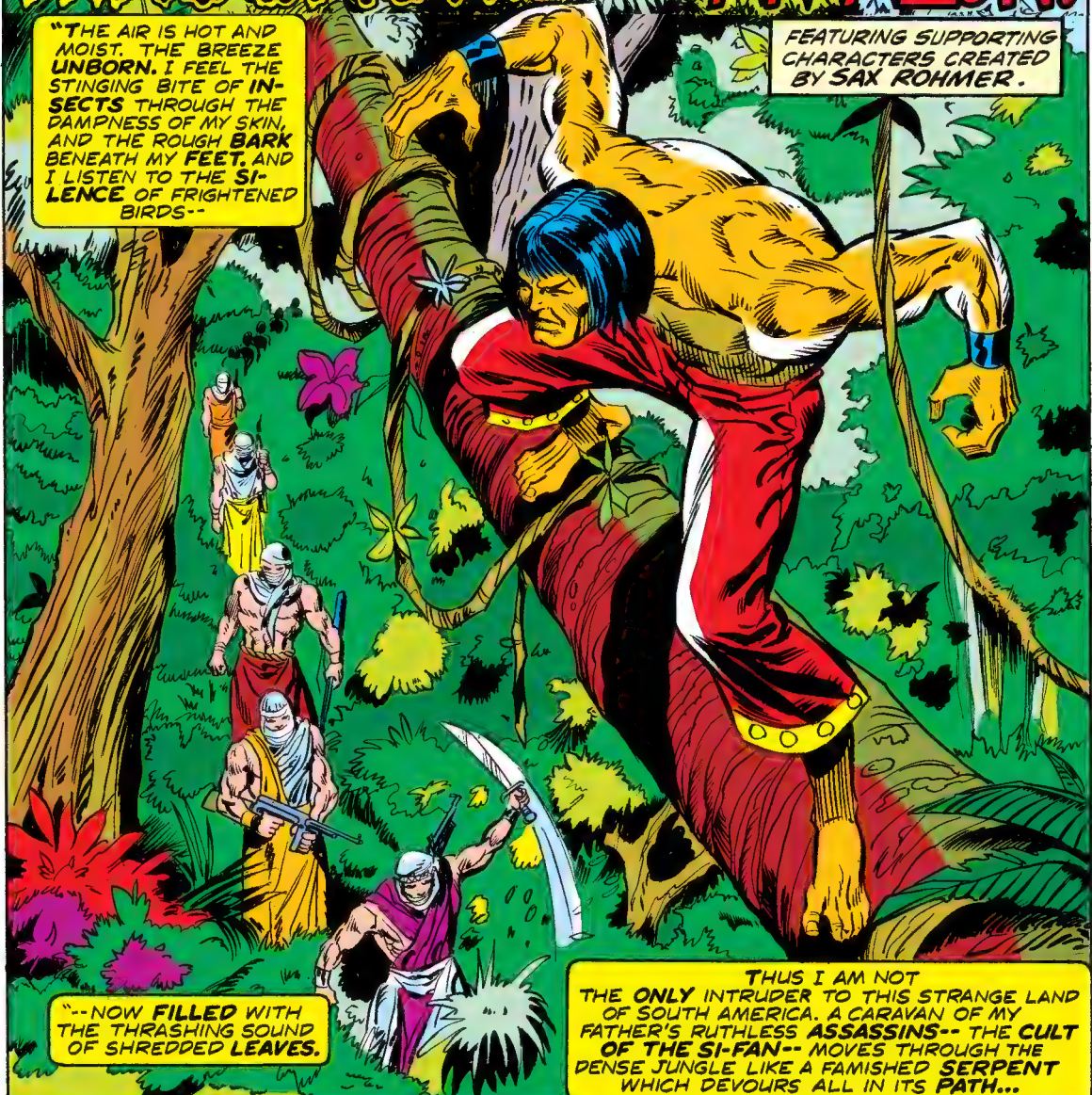
"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

MASSACRE ALONG THE AMAZON!

"THE AIR IS HOT AND MOIST. THE BREEZE UNBORN. I FEEL THE STINGING BITE OF INSECTS THROUGH THE DAMPNESS OF MY SKIN, AND THE ROUGH BARK BENEATH MY FEET. AND I LISTEN TO THE SILENCE OF FRIGHTENED BIRDS--"

FEATURING SUPPORTING CHARACTERS CREATED BY SAX ROHMER.



"--NOW FILLED WITH THE THRASHING SOUND OF SHREDDED LEAVES."

THUS I AM NOT THE ONLY INTRUDER TO THIS STRANGE LAND OF SOUTH AMERICA. A CARAVAN OF MY FATHER'S RUTHLESS ASSASSINS-- THE CULT OF THE SI-FAN-- MOVES THROUGH THE DENSE JUNGLE LIKE A FAMISHED SERPENT WHICH DEVOURS ALL IN ITS PATH...

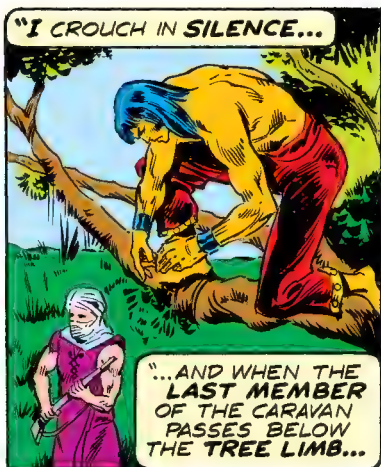
DOUG MOENCH
WRITER

MILGROM, STARLIN,
WEISS & SIMONSON
PENCILLERS

SAL TRAPANI
INKER

DAVE HUNT, LETTERER
P. GOLDBERG, COLORIST

ROY THOMAS
EDITOR

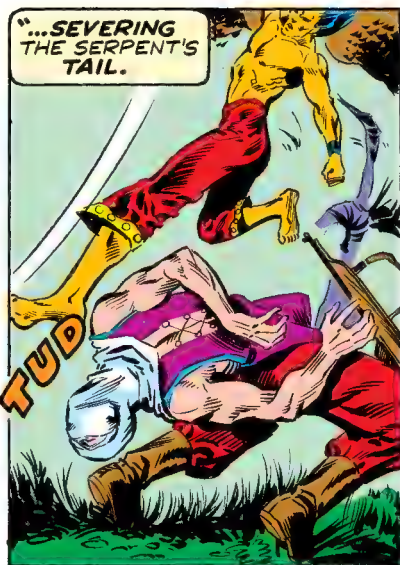


"I CROUCH IN **SILENCE...**

"...AND WHEN THE **LAST MEMBER** OF THE CARAVAN PASSES BELOW THE **TREE LIMB...**



"...I **HURL MYSELF** FROM IT..."

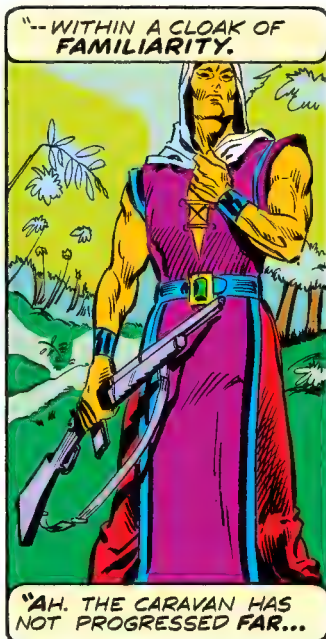


"...SEVERING THE **SERPENT'S TAIL.**



"HE HAS NOT **CRIED OUT...**

"YET I MUST MOVE **QUICKLY** IF I AM TO REMAIN **UNSEEN--**



"--WITHIN A **CLOAK OF FAMILIARITY.**

"AH. THE CARAVAN HAS NOT **PROGRESSED FAR...**



"...BUT AS I MOVE TO ASSUME THE **FALLEN SI-FAN'S POSITION--**

I **HEAR YOU** BEHIND ME..."



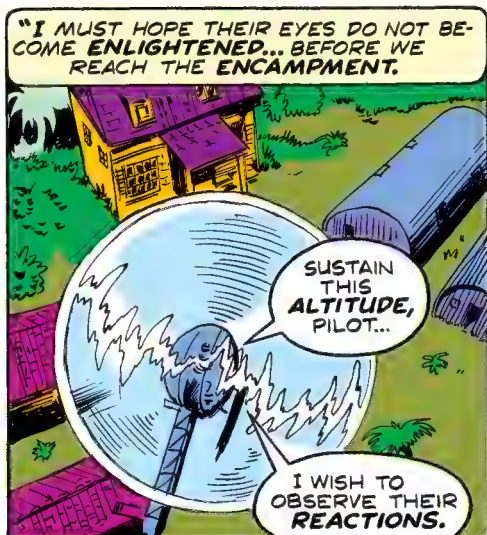
"...BUT **STRAGGLING** WILL DO YOU NO **GOOD**, CHAI PHEN.

IT DOES NOT **LESSEN** THE **DISTANCE** TO OUR **GOAL**, AND ONLY FORCES YOU TO **RUN** AFTER RESTING FROM A **WALK.**



BESIDES, FU MANCHU **FROWNS** UPON THOSE WHO PURSUE HIS DESTINY WITH LESS THAN **ENTHUSIASM.**

"IT IS **TRUE.** THE **LOYALTY** INSPIRED BY MY FATHER IS... **BLIND.**



"I MUST HOPE THEIR EYES DO NOT BECOME **ENLIGHTENED...** BEFORE WE REACH THE **ENCAMPMENT.**

SUSTAIN THIS **ALTITUDE**, PILOT..."

I WISH TO **OBSERVE** THEIR **REACTIONS.**



A HELI-COPTER--?!!



BUT FÜHRER BUCHER SAID HE WOULD RETURN BY **BOAT**-- ALONG THE **RIVER**--!

I AM WELL AWARE OF THAT, KLEY...

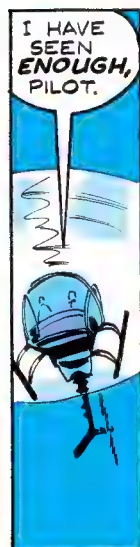
...JUST AS I AM AWARE OF THE IDENTITY OF OUR AERIAL VISITOR.



THEREFORE, WHETHER LEADER BUCHER IS HERE OR NOT--



--WE **MUST** PREPARE THE **TRAP** AT **ONCE**-- AND IN THE NAME OF THE GLORIOUS **FOURTH REICH**!



I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH, PILOT.



UNDoubtedly, BUCHER HOPES TO **ENTRAP** ME WITH HIS MINIA-TURE **ARMY**...



...BUT FOR **NOW**, IT IS TIME FOR US TO RENDEZVOUS WITH MY **OWN** **ARMY**.

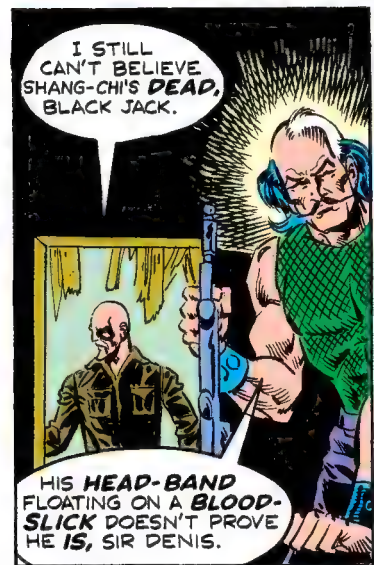
HE **FLEES**--!

JUST AS WELL. HERR BUCHER WOULD WISH TO **PERSONALLY** KILL **FU MANCHU**.



SHANG-CHI CERTAINLY MADE **SHORT** WORK OF THESE **SI-FAN**...*

*SEE LAST ISSUE.--ROY.



I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE SHANG-CHI'S **DEAD**, BLACK JACK.

HIS **HEAD-BAND** FLOATING ON A **BLOOD-SLICK** DOESN'T PROVE HE **IS**, SIR DENIS.



MAYBE **NOT**, OLD FRIEND...WHICH MEANS HE'LL BE **ALONE** AGAINST BUCHER **AND** **FU MANCHU** --IF WE DON'T GET THIS **BOAT** **STARTED**.

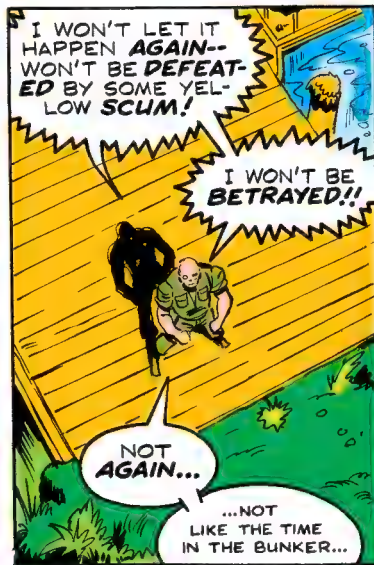
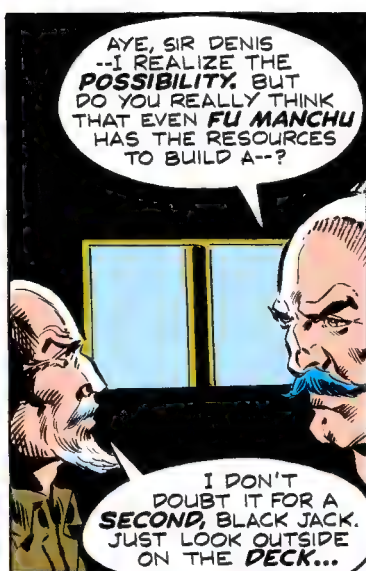
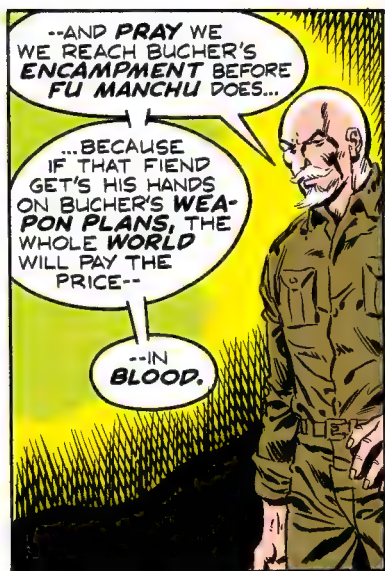
IT'S **READY NOW**, SIR DENIS...

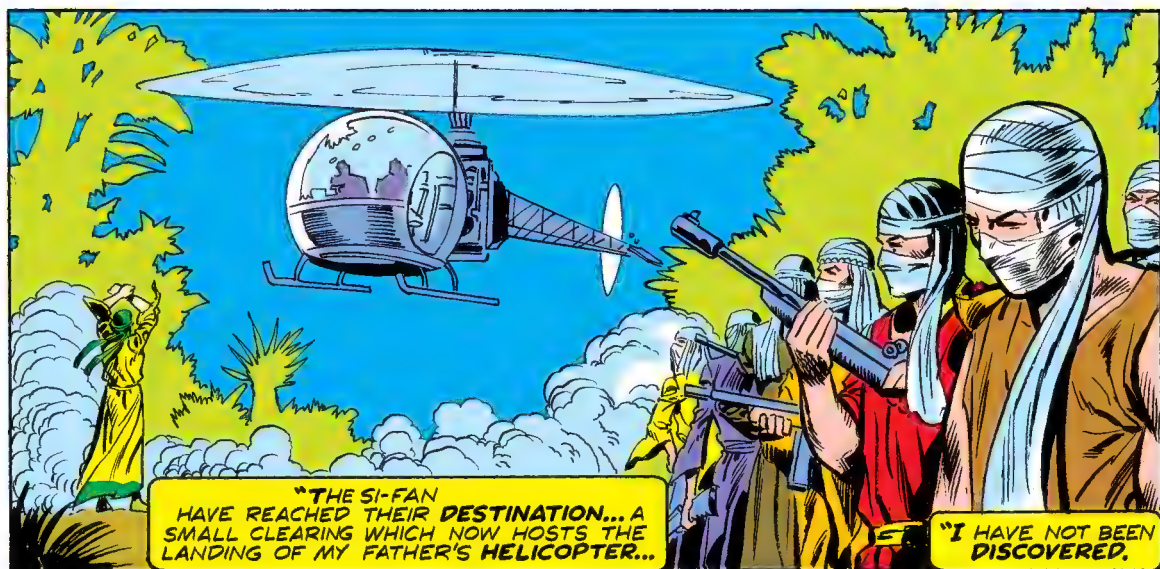


ALL CHI DID WAS **CUT THE ENGINES*** --SO A SIMPLE **CABLE-SPLICE** STARTS THEM **UP** AGAIN.

GOOD WORK, BLACK JACK. SET THEM FOR **FULL SPEED**--

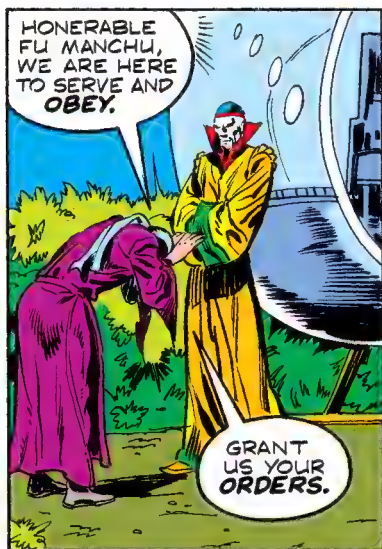
*AGAIN, LAST ISSUE.--ROY.





"THE SI-FAN HAVE REACHED THEIR DESTINATION... A SMALL CLEARING WHICH NOW HOSTS THE LANDING OF MY FATHER'S HELICOPTER..."

"I HAVE NOT BEEN DISCOVERED."



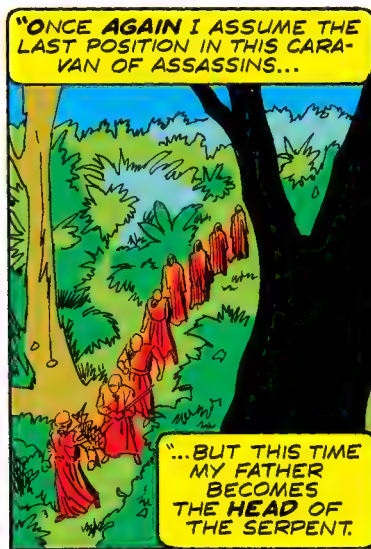
HONERABLE FU MANCHU, WE ARE HERE TO SERVE AND OBEY.

GRANT US YOUR ORDERS.



THE NAZI FOOL PLANS TO ENTRAP ME AS I HAD ANTICIPATED.

WE SHALL NOW PROCEED TO HIS ENCAMPMENT, THERE TO EMPLOY THE COUNTER-TRAP ALREADY DISCUSSED.



"ONCE AGAIN I ASSUME THE LAST POSITION IN THIS CARAVAN OF ASSASSINS..."

"...BUT THIS TIME MY FATHER BECOMES THE HEAD OF THE SERPENT."



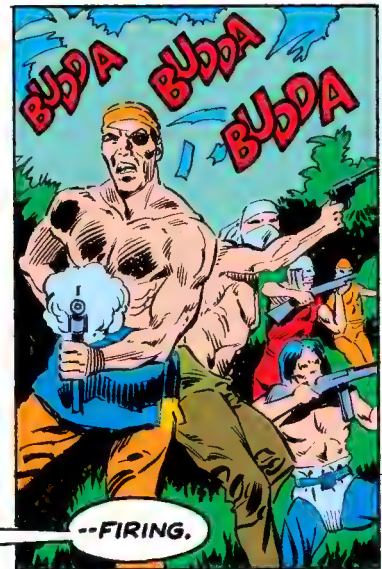
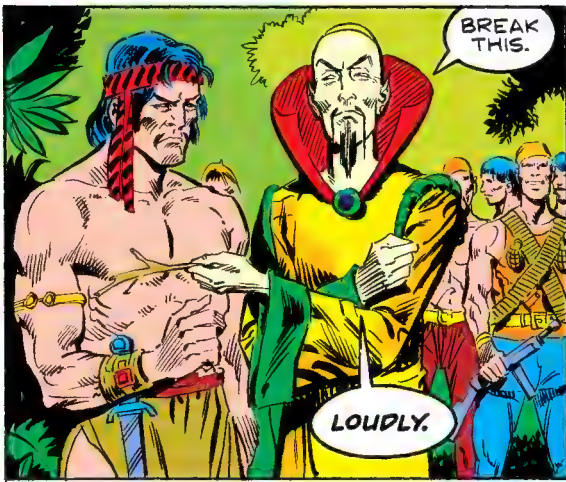
ALL RIGHT-- HURRY!!

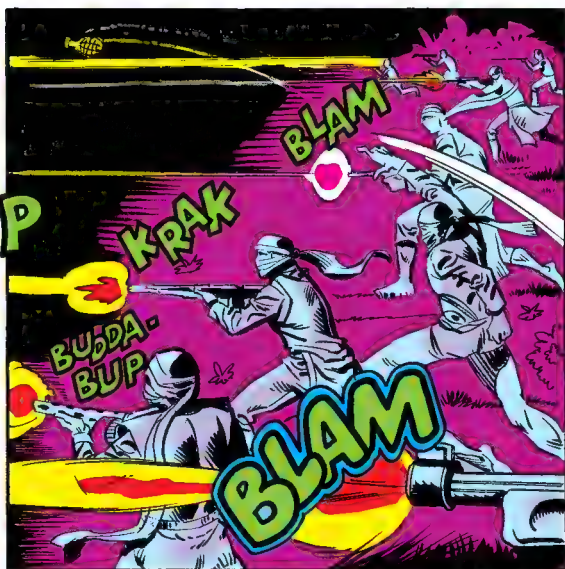
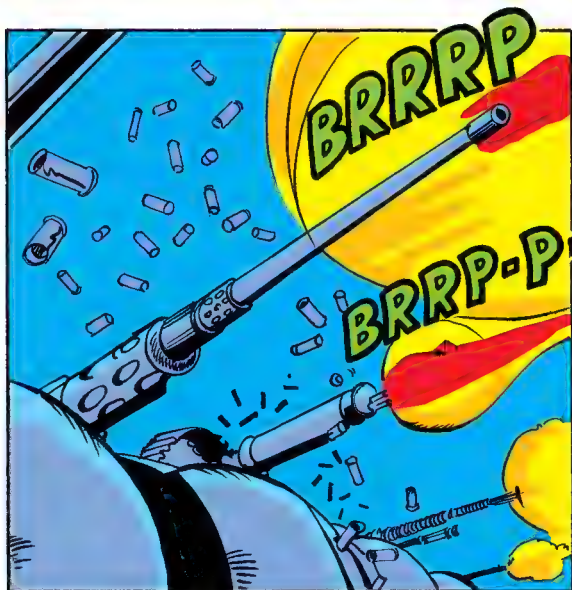
GET THOSE SANDBAGS INTO POSITION!



THAT STINKING YELLOW DEVIL WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!

AND HE MUST BE KILLED! DO YOU HEAR ME? KILLED!!





"I HAVE ATTACHED MYSELF TO THE GROUP WHICH WOULD CIRCLE TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE COMPOUND..."



"IN THIS MANNER I HAVE SEPARATED MYSELF FROM MY FATHER."

"AND NOW I LEAVE THE SI-FAN--"



"--TO APPROACH THE MADMAN BUCHER'S COMPOUND IN A MORE DIRECT PATH..."

"BUT:"



WHERE ARE YOU GOING, CHAI PHEN?

"MY ACTIONS HAVE BROUGHT ATTENTION TO MY DISGUISE..."



"...RENDERING IT NO MORE THAN A MEANINGLESS HINDRANCE."



SHANG-CHI--?!!?

"HE RAISES HIS WEAPON."



"I RUN."

"TOWARD HIM."

"I RELIEVE HIM OF HIS WEAPON..."

"...TO LEARN WHAT I HAVE ALREADY KNOWN..."

CHWUP

SWOK

"ALTHOUGH MY FATHER'S SI-FAN ARE LIKE BLADES OF GRASS TOUCHED BY A COMMON BREEZE..."

"...NO TWO OF THEM ARE ALIKE."

FWAK

"EACH EMPLOYS A DIFFERENT STYLE OF FIGHTING..."

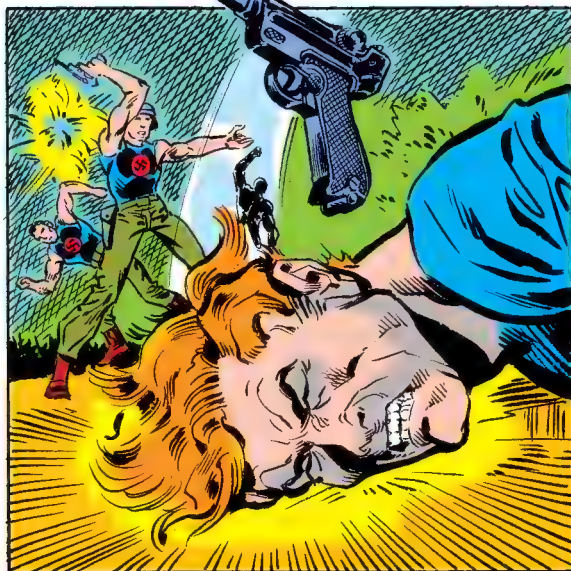
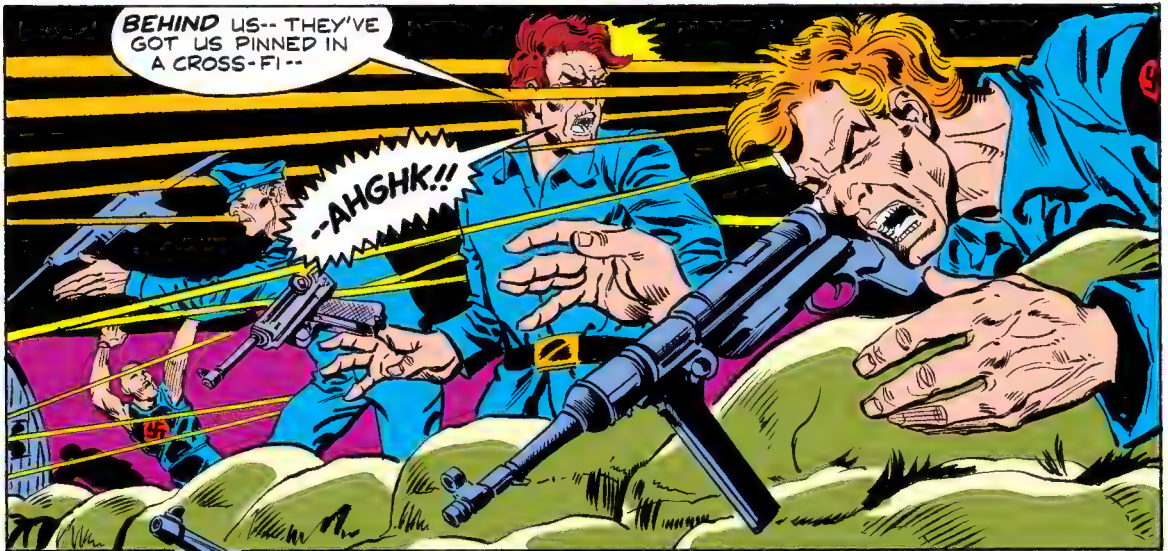
CHUT

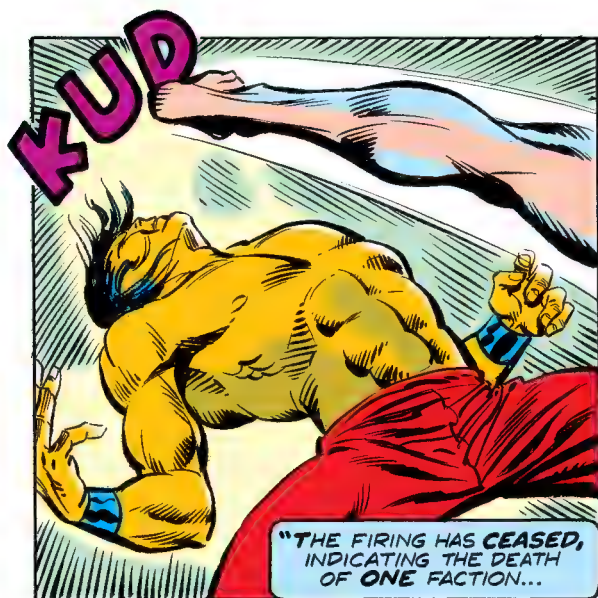
"...AND THE TECHNIQUE ADOPTED BY THIS ONE IS...PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE."

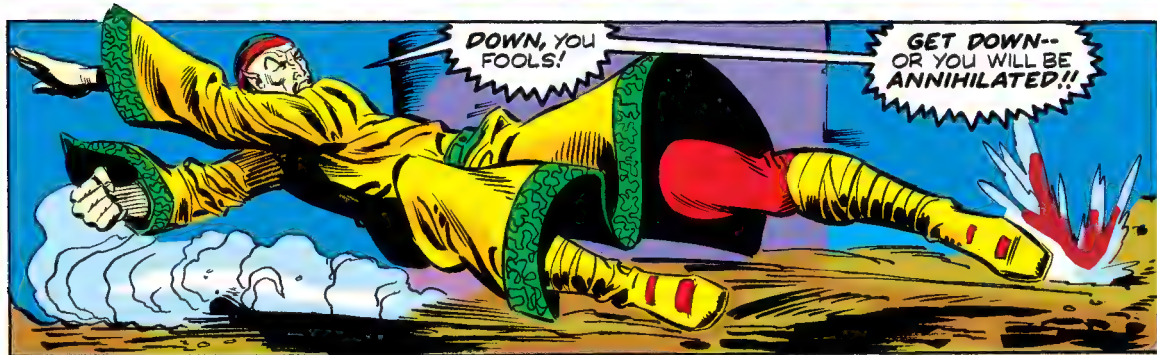
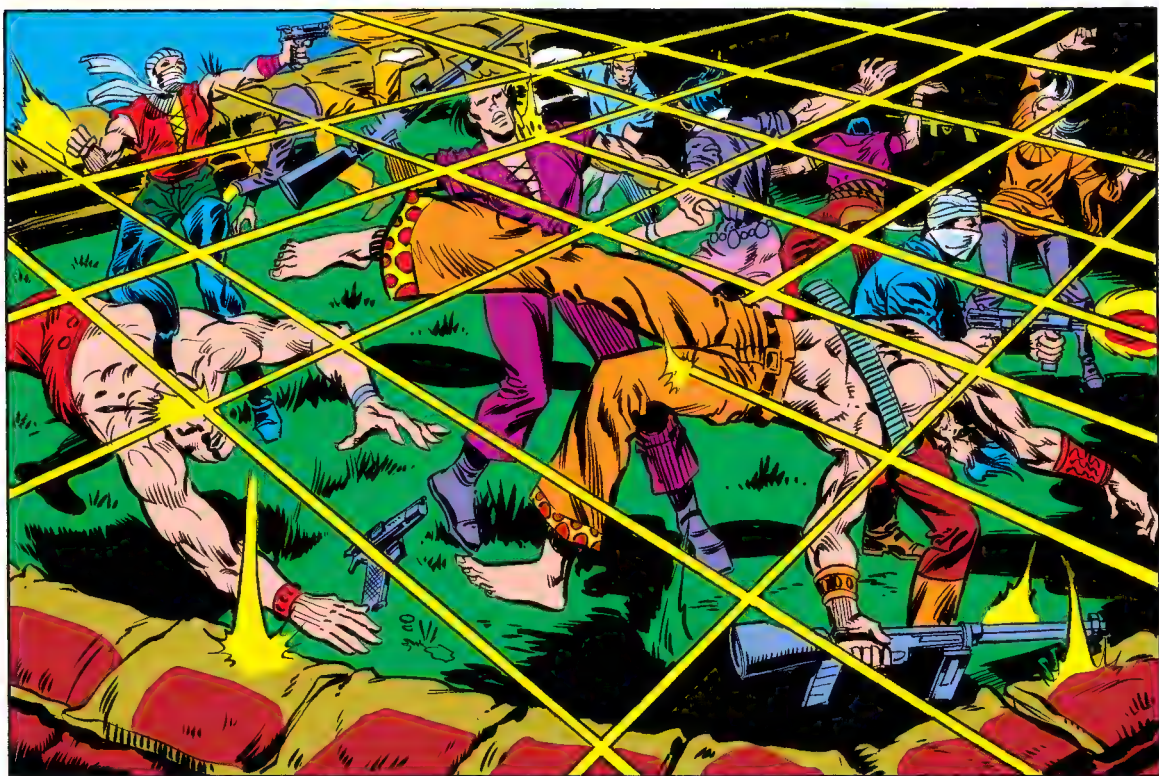
OUR BROTHER SI-FAN FALL LIKE **WHEAT**. WHY DO WE NOT RECEIVE THE **SIGNAL**?

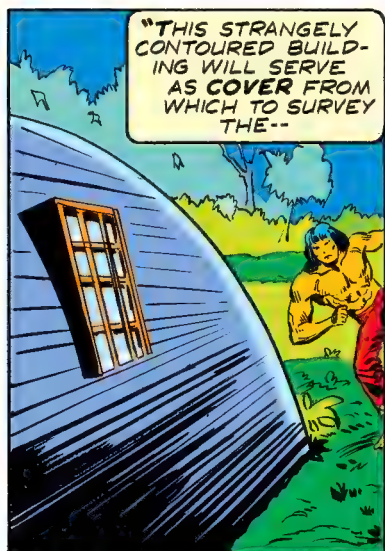
BECAUSE FU MANCHU UNDERSTANDS THE VALUE OF **PATIENCE**, KWAI SING.

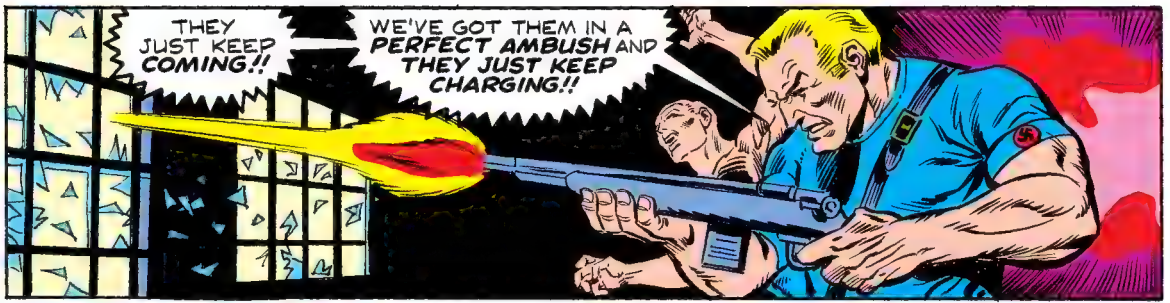
WE SHALL SEE THE FLARE WHEN THERE IS NOTHING TO BE **GAINED** IN **FURTHER PATIENCE**.





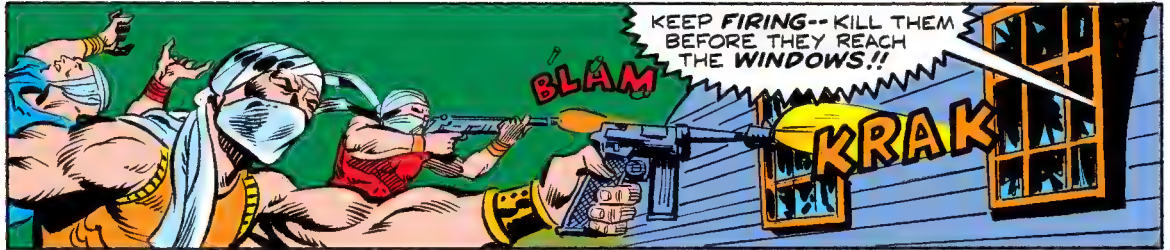






WE'VE GOT THEM IN A PERFECT AMBUSH AND THEY JUST KEEP CHARGING!!

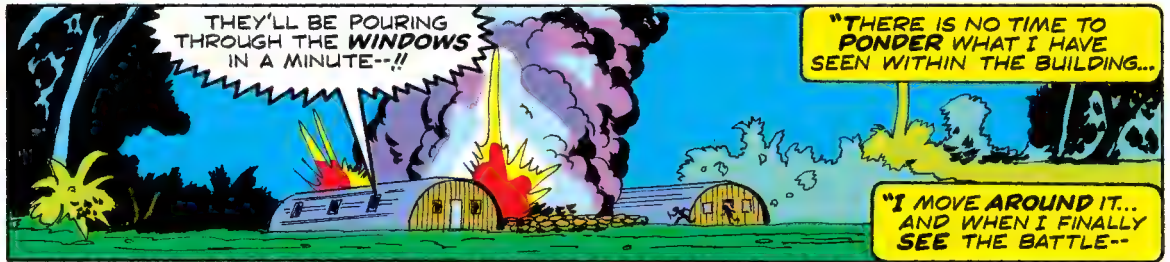
THEY JUST KEEP COMING!!



KEEP FIRING-- KILL THEM BEFORE THEY REACH THE WINDOWS!!

BLAM

KRAK



THEY'LL BE POURING THROUGH THE WINDOWS IN A MINUTE--!!

"THERE IS NO TIME TO PONDER WHAT I HAVE SEEN WITHIN THE BUILDING...

"I MOVE AROUND IT... AND WHEN I FINALLY SEE THE BATTLE--



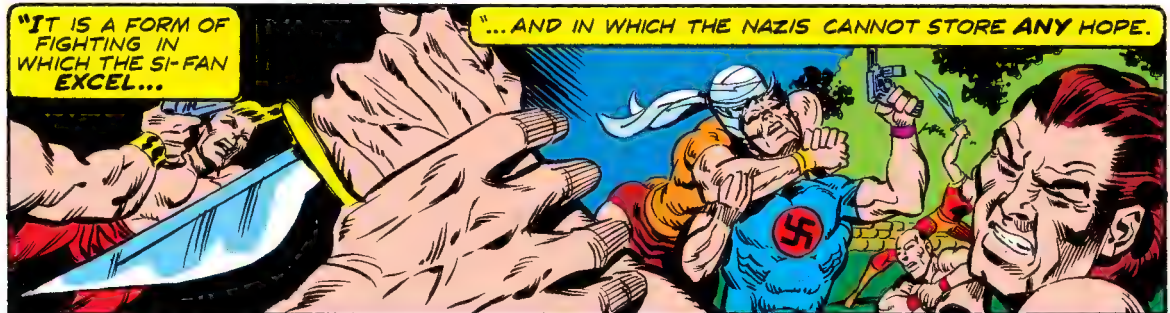
"--I AM SICKENED.

"DEAD MEN LITTER THE GROUND LIKE FALLEN LEAVES. SPILLED BLOOD FEEDS THE HUNGRY EARTH...

"NEVER HAVE I WITNESSED SUCH BRUTALITY-- SUCH HATRED AND SAVAGERY--! THE SI-FAN INSANELY HURL THEMSELVES THROUGH SHEETS OF SCREAMING BULLETS, AND THOSE WHO SURVIVE HURL THEMSELVES THROUGH ALREADY SHATTERED WINDOWS...



...REDUCING THE STRIFE TO HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.



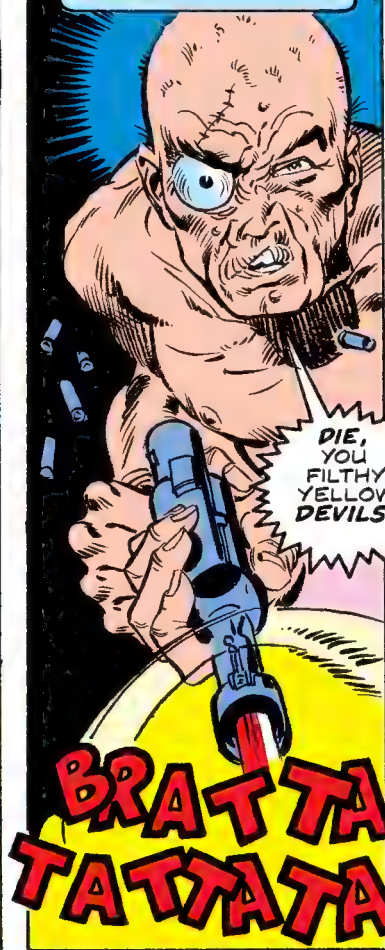
"IT IS A FORM OF FIGHTING IN WHICH THE SI-FAN EXCEL...

"...AND IN WHICH THE NAZIS CANNOT STORE ANY HOPE.

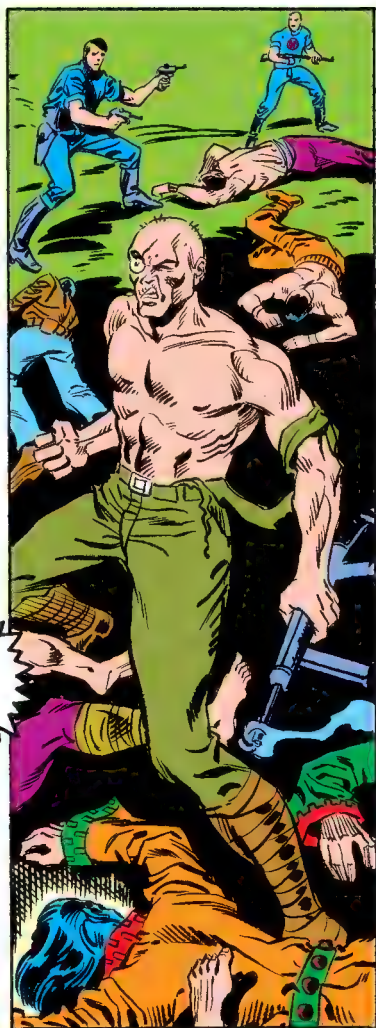
"THUS IT WOULD SEEM
THE SI-FAN WILL EMERGE
THE MORE SUCCESSFUL
MURDERERS THIS TRAGIC
DAY..."



"BUT NO. THE MADMAN
BUCHER BURSTS FROM
A BUILDING, HIS MA-
CHINE GUN SLAYING
THE LAST SURVIVING
SI-FAN... AS WELL AS
ANY OF HIS OWN MEN
CAUGHT IN ITS SWEEP.

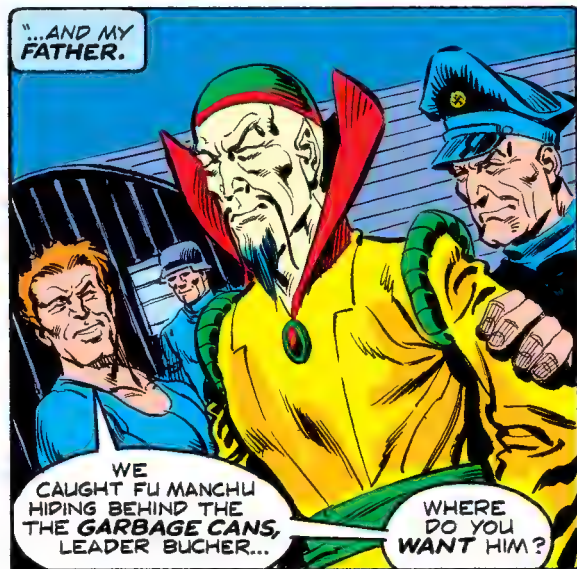


DIE,
YOU
FILTHY
YELLOW
DEVILS!



"AND IT IS FINISHED.
THE ABRUPT SILENCE IS
DEAFENING. THE ONLY
SURVIVORS ARE BUCHER,
A HANDFUL OF HIS MEN..."

"...AND MY
FATHER.



WE
CAUGHT FU MANCHU
HIDING BEHIND THE
GARBAGE CANS,
LEADER BUCHER...

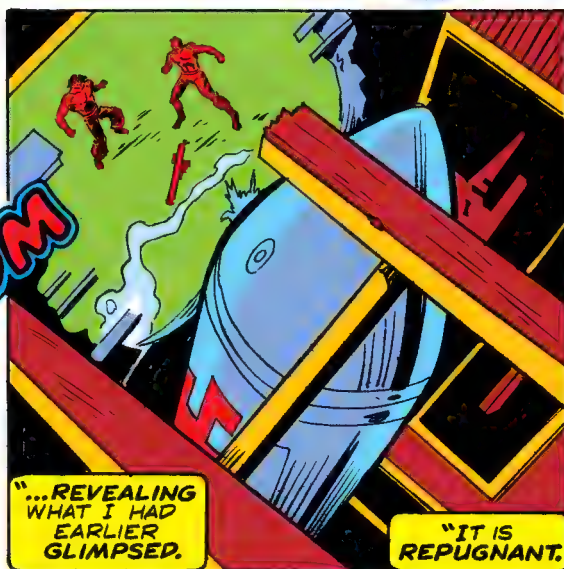
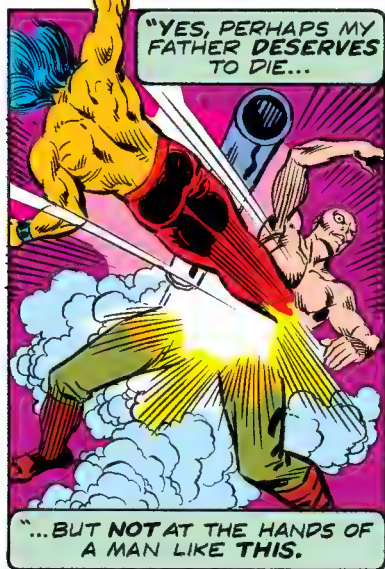
WHERE
DO YOU
WANT HIM?

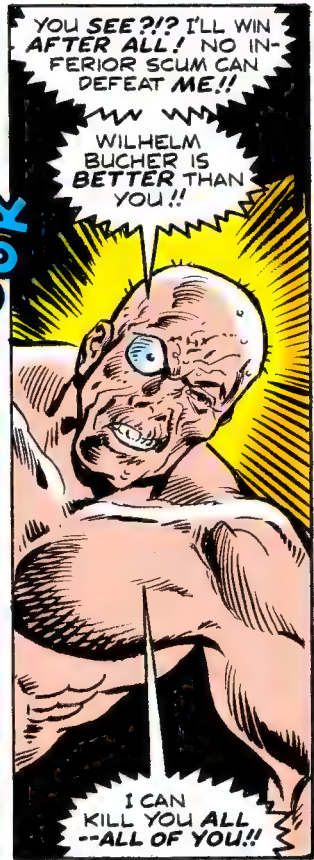
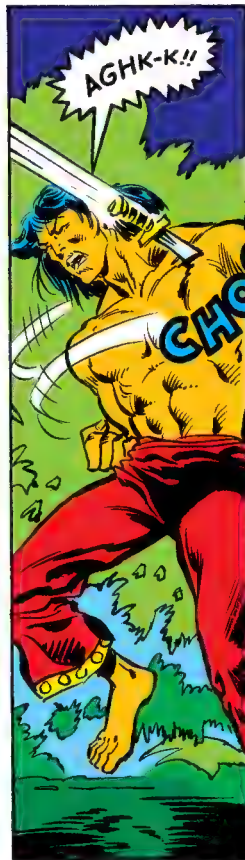
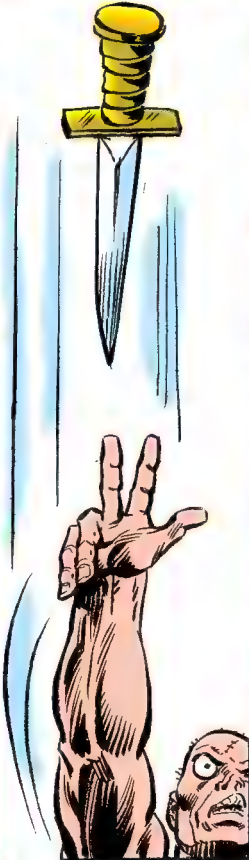
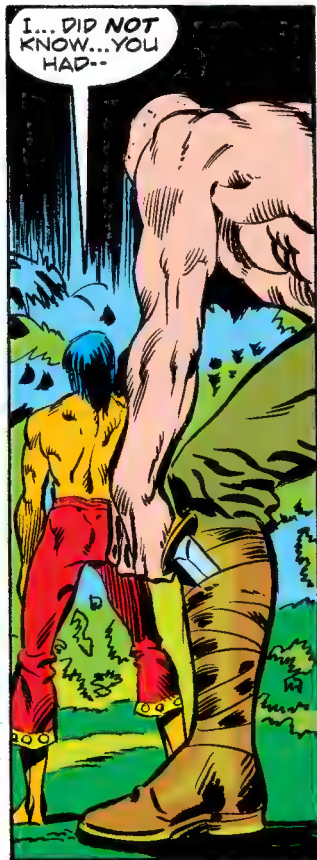
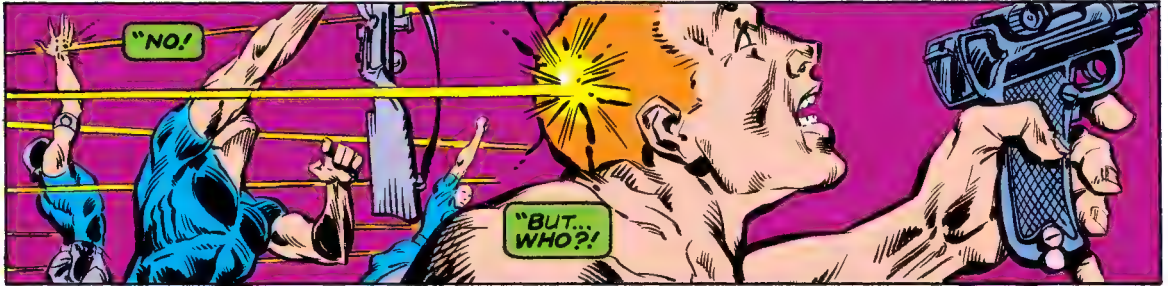
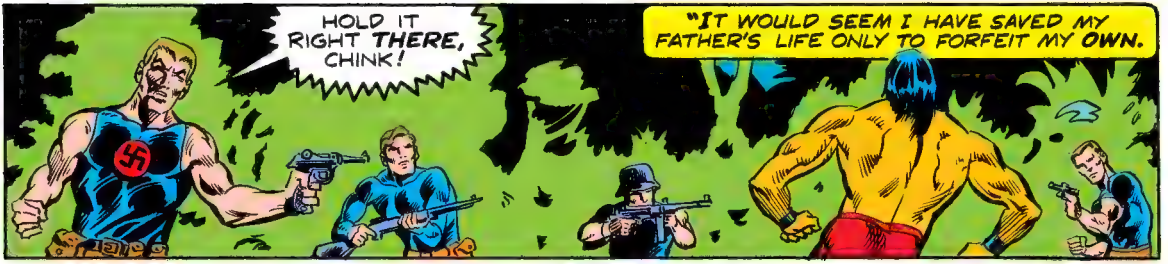


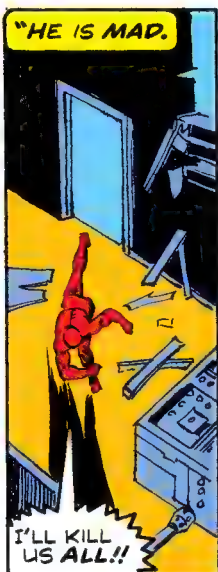
CAN'T YOU
GET IT TO GO
ANY FASTER,
BLACK JACK?

SORRY,
SIR DENIS--IT'S
OPERATING AT FULL
STEAM AS
IS...

...BUT THE
ENCAMPMENT CAN'T BE
TOO MUCH FARTHER.

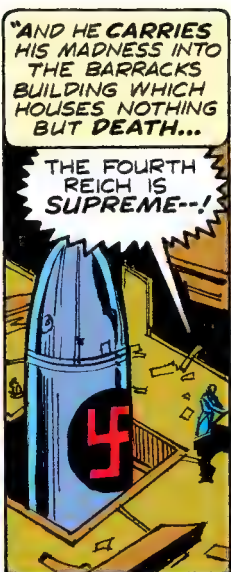






"HE IS MAD.

I'LL KILL US ALL!!



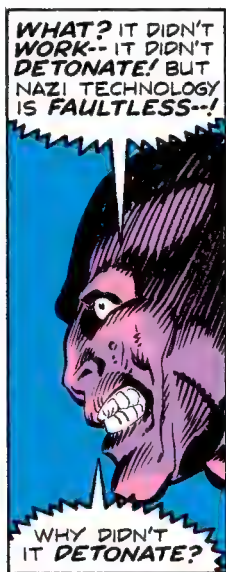
"AND HE CARRIES HIS MADNESS INTO THE BARRACKS BUILDING WHICH HOUSES NOTHING BUT DEATH...

THE FOURTH REICH IS SUPREME--!



"A MISSILE... ARMED WITH THE NUCLEAR WAR-HEAD SIR DENIS SPOKE OF...

THE FOURTH REICH WILL KILL US ALL!!



WHAT? IT DIDN'T WORK-- IT DIDN'T DETONATE! BUT NAZI TECHNOLOGY IS FAULTLESS--!

WHY DIDN'T IT DETONATE?

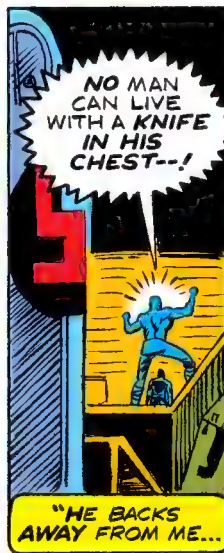


I... DEACTIVATED IT.



YOU--?!! BUT IT CAN'T BE--!!

YOU'RE INFERIOR! YOU SHOULD BE DEAD!!



NO MAN CAN LIVE WITH A KNIFE IN HIS CHEST--!

"HE BACKS AWAY FROM ME...



"...FALLS...



"...AND SLIDES DOWN THE MISSILE.



AAAAAEEEEEEEEEE THUD!

"IT IS ROOTED DEEPLY IN THE GROUND.



CHI-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

BUCHER IS DEAD...



...AND MY FATHER HAS ESCAPED, AS I KNEW HE WOULD ...EVEN AS I SAVED HIS LIFE.



PERHAPS FU MAN-CHU'S CONDUCT HAS EARNED HIM DEATH, BUT HE DOES NOT DESERVE TO DIE MERELY BECAUSE HE WAS BORN TO HIS RACE.

THUS, IT WAS MY ACTIONS WHICH SET HIM FREE.



DON'T FEEL BADLY ABOUT IT, LAP. AT LEAST WE'VE KEPT THE WAR-HEAD OUT OF HIS HANDS...

...AND I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE MOST WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED.

NEXT: RITE OF COURAGE, FISTS OF DEATH!

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUPTM



25¢
©

25
FEB
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FUTM



WILSON/SINNO 77

A MARTIAL-ARTS MASTERPIECE!
FISTS OF FURY..
rites OF DEATH!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China, retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

DOUG MOENCH / PAUL GULACY / SAL TRAPANI / JON COSTANZA, letters / ROY THOMAS
THOUGHT VISION STRENGTH BILL MANTLO, colors GUIDANCE



DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE ACCOUNTANTS IN SCOTLAND YARD, BLACK JACK-- THEY'RE PREPARED TO FINANCE ANY OPERATION DESIGNED TO CURTAIL FU MANCHU'S INSIDIOUS ACTIVITIES...

...AND CONSIDERING WE COULD HAVE BEEN SHIPPED OUT OF HERE IN PINE BOXES--

--JUST BE THANKFUL WE'RE ABLE TO WALK TO THE AIR-STRIP.

THANKFUL, SIR...?

WUP WUP WUP WUP

...WHEN FU MANCHU FLITS OUT OF HERE AS FREE AS A BIRD IN HIS BLASTED HELICOPTER--?

THAT CIRCUMSTANCE GALLS ME AS MUCH AS YOU, BLACK JACK-- AND I'D GIVE MY RIGHT ARM TO BRING THAT FIEND CRASHING DOWN IN FLAME--!

BUT AT LEAST WE PREVENTED HIM FROM SECURING BUCHER'S NUCLEAR WEAPON PLANS-- AND THERE'S MORE THAN JUST THE THREE OF US TO BE THANKFUL FOR THAT...

THE WHOLE WORLD WILL SLEEP EASIER TONIGHT.

"I HAVE HEARD A SOFT SOUND..."

"...OF SHOCKING URGENCY..."

IF THE WORLD KNEW ABOUT IT, SIR DENIS... AND IF I KNOW YOU THERE WON'T BE ANY PRESS CONFERENCES WHEN WE GET BACK.

WE CAN DISCUSS THAT AS WE MOVE, BLACK JACK.

COME ALONG, SHANG-CHI...

LAD...?

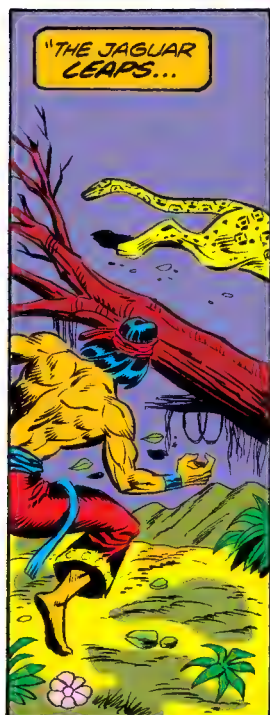
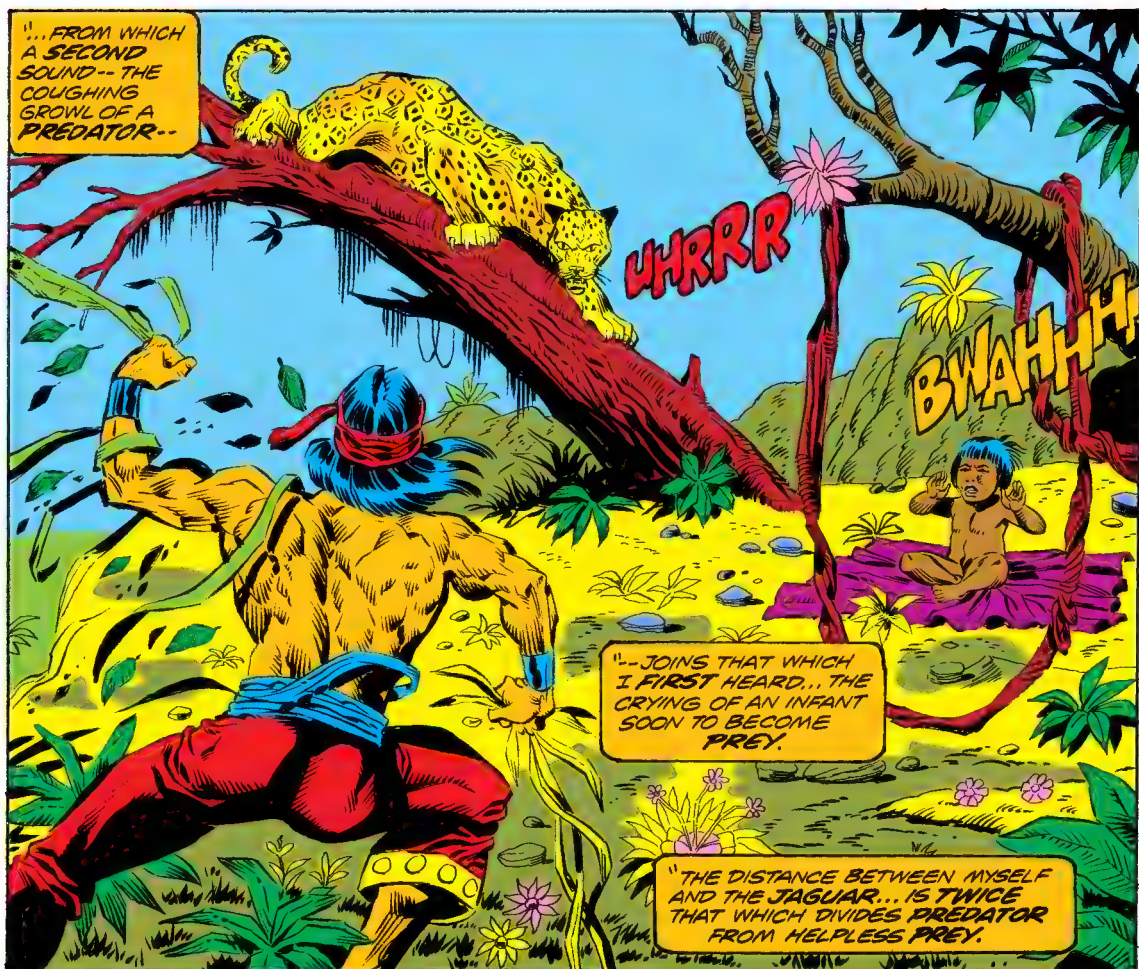
NO USE WAITIN' FOR HIM, SIR DENIS. THAT CHINAMAN PULLS MORE VANISHING ACTS THAN CLAUDE RAINS.

YES, BUT FOR GOOD REASON, OLD FRIEND...

...ALWAYS FOR GOOD REASON.

"... AND THERE HAS NOT BEEN TIME TO INFORM SMITH AND HIS AIDE THAT I MUST PURSUE THAT SOUND.

"AHEAD-- A CLEARING..."



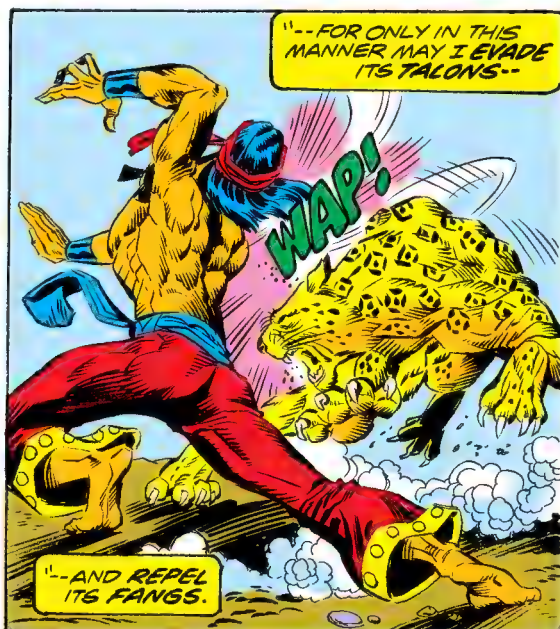


"-- WHICH DEFLECTS ITS
LUNGE FROM A PATH OF
SWIFT TRAGEDY.



"HAH! THE CAT IS FILLED WITH
ANGER NOW. I MUST BECOME
THE CAT, MOVING AS IT MOVES...

"...DODGING
AS IT
STRIKES--



"-- FOR ONLY IN THIS
MANNER MAY I EVADE
ITS TALONS--

WAP!

"-- AND REPEL
ITS FANGS.

"I HAVE AVOIDED THE USE OF MY FIST, FOR
I DO NOT WISH TO HARM THIS ANIMAL.

"IT IS NOT
A MAN...

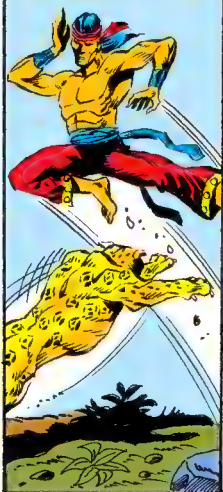
"...AND THEREFORE SEEKS
DEATH NOT IN BRUTALITY--



"-- BUT MERELY
IN THE CAUSE
OF INNOCENT
HUNGER.

"THUS, IT IS A DELICATE STRUGGLE
... FOR NEITHER IS THE INFANT A
MAN-- AND ITS INNOCENCE TRAN-
SCENDS HUNGER.

"I EXECUTE
MANEUVERS BASED
SOLELY UPON THE
FUNDAMENTALS
OF DEFENSE..."



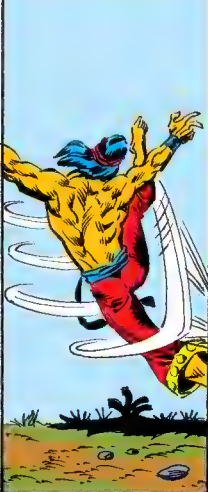
"...AND WHILE I
ADHERE TO THE
DISCIPLINE OF
TAO-- THE ABILITY
TO ANTICIPATE
THE FLOW OF AN
OPPONENT'S AT-
TACK--"



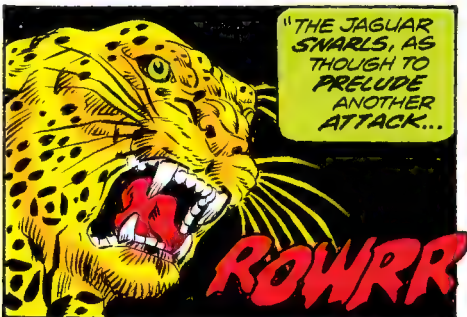
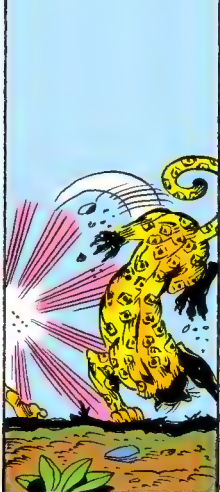
"--I DO NOT FREE
MY MIND OF
THOUGHT..."



"FOR I MUST
REMAIN CON-
SCIOUS THAT MY
PURPOSE IS NOT
TO INFLICT INJURY..."



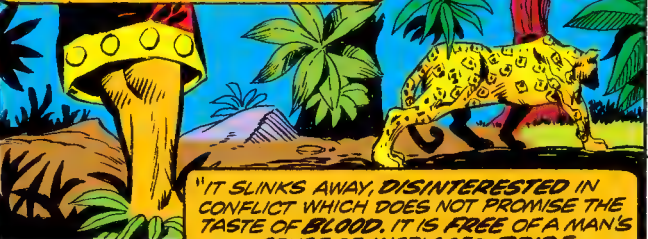
"...BUT, RATHER,
EXHAUSTION."



"THE JAGUAR
SNARLS, AS
THOUGH TO
PRELUDE
ANOTHER
ATTACK..."

ROWRR

"NO, IT WAS MERELY TO VOICE
THE FACT THAT ITS RETREAT IS
NOT ROOTED IN COWARDICE..."



"IT SLINKS AWAY, DISINTERESTED IN
CONFLICT WHICH DOES NOT PROMISE THE
TASTE OF BLOOD. IT IS FREE OF A MAN'S
SENSE OF MISPLACED PRIDE."

"FREE, TOO, OF A MAN'S
COMPASSION."



"AND, THUS, I HAVE
ENGAGED IN RARE
BATTLE-- BATTLE
WHICH HAS BEEN
THE MEANS TO A
GOAL OF SERENITY."

"THE INFANT
HAS CEASED...
CRYING."

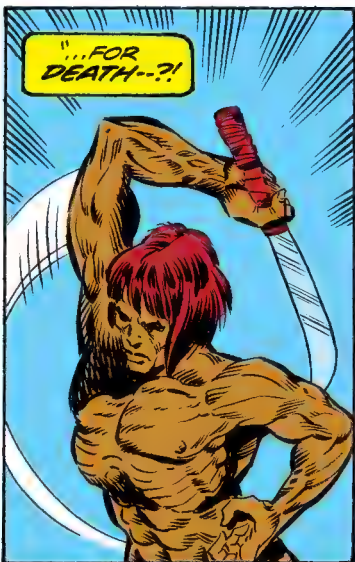
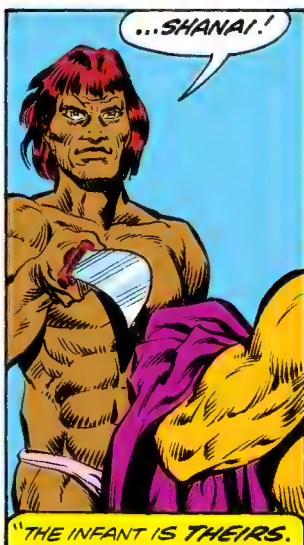
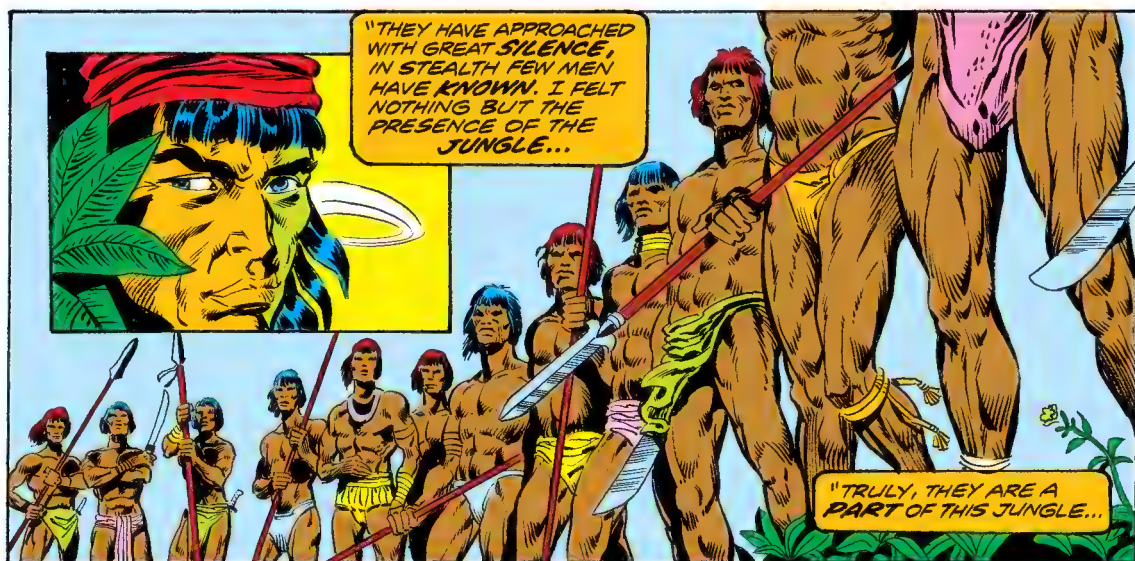


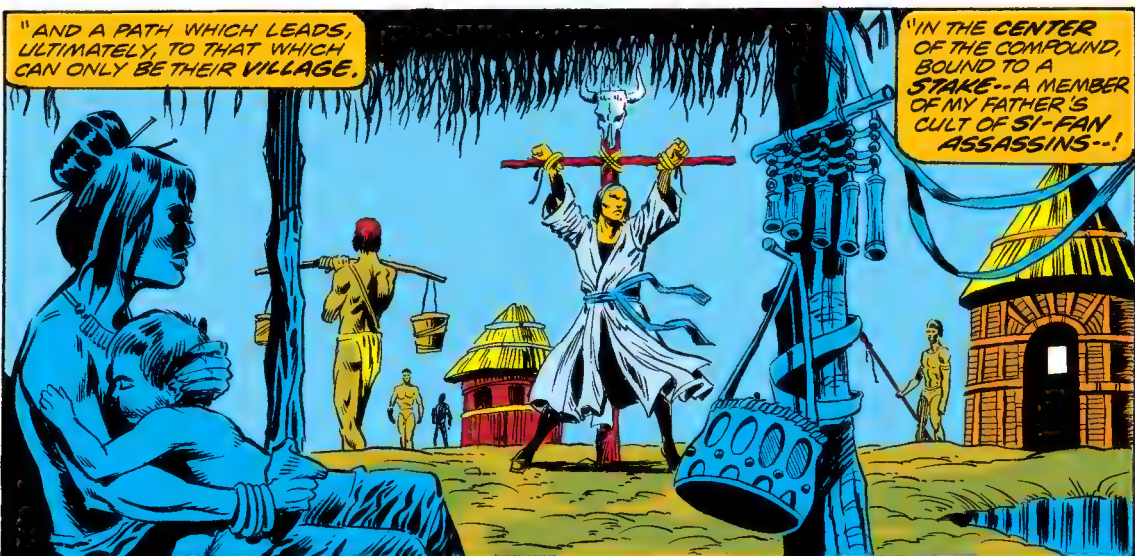
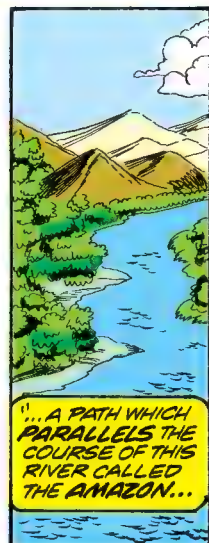
KIWATAI-NAO!!

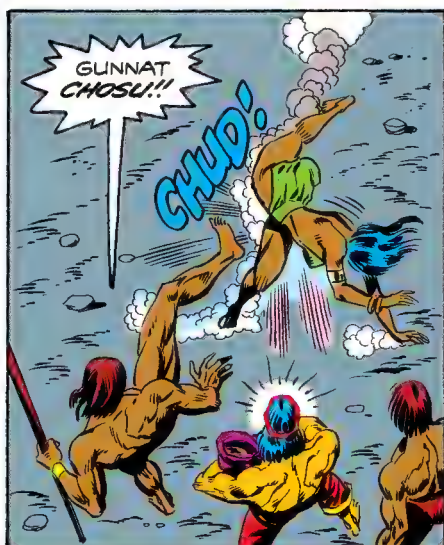
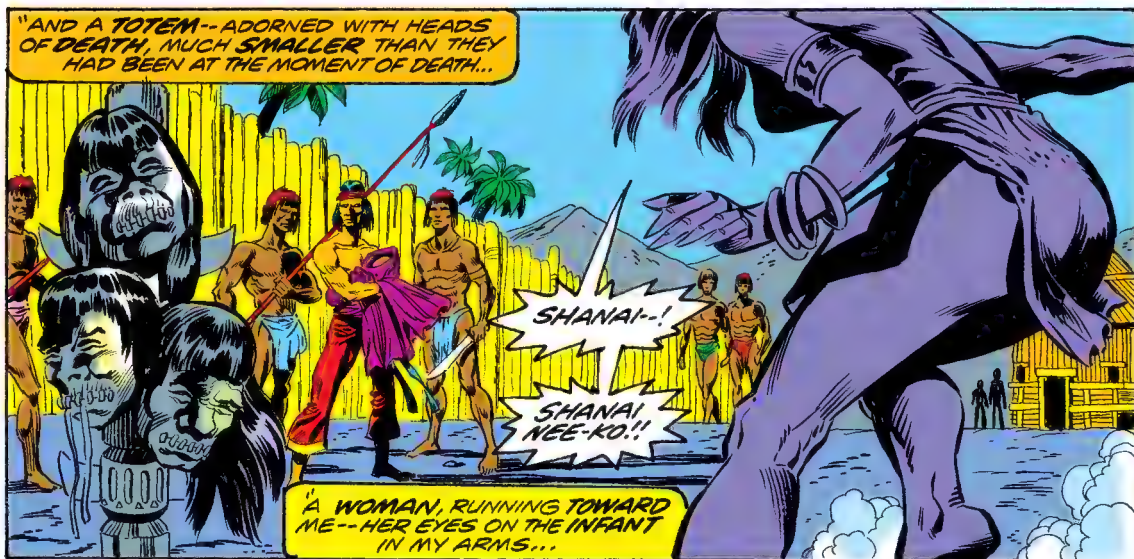


AWRKK

**GOO...
GOO...
KAI!**







"A MAN OF APPARENT AUTHORITY BEGINS TO SPEAK, BUT HIS WORDS ARE MET WITH DEFIANCE FROM ANOTHER. THEY ARGUE."



MY APPEARANCE NEAR THIS VILLAGE WAS A **BAD OMEN** TO THE JIVAROS-- THEY BELIEVED IT **CORROBORATED** THEIR SUPERSTITIONS...



...BUT YOUR **RESCUE** OF THE CHILD HAS DIVIDED THEM INTO **TWO FACTIONS**. ONE LED BY THE **CHIEF**, BELIEVES YOU MIGHT BE AN **EMISSARY** SENT BY THE GODS...

...THE **OTHER** FACTION IS LED BY THE CHIEF'S **AMBITIOUS RIVAL**-- WHO CLAIMS YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A **FOREIGN INTERLOPER**. THEY'RE PREPARING A TEST-- A **GAUNTLET**-- TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE.



AND IF I **FAIL**, SI-FAN?

THE CHILD WILL **DIE**, AND YOU SHALL JOIN ME IN **SLOW TORTURE**...

...AFTER WHICH OUR SHRUNKEN **HEADS** WILL HANG IN TESTIMONY TO THEIR TRIUMPH.

"LONG HOURS HAVE PASSED, IN WHICH THE JIVAROS HAVE HEATED A BED OF COALS..."



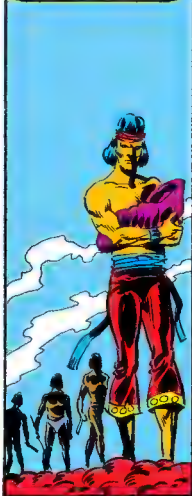
"...AND IN WHICH I HAVE PREPARED MYSELF THROUGH **MEDITATION**."

"A TRICKLE OF MOIST WARMTH PAINTS MY BACK AS I AM PRODDED TOWARD THE **COALS**..."



"I AM **READY**."

"MY MIND IS **CALM**..."



"...IN FULL CONTROL OF MY **FEET**..."



"FOR I MUST REMAIN AS **SILENT**--"

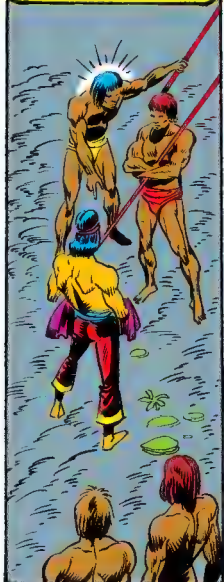


"--AS THE **SLUMBERING INFANT**."





"NOW A MORE
HEATED ARGU-
MENT ENSUES.



"THE CHIEF
WOULD ALLOW
THE CHILD TO
LIVE...



"...BUT HIS RIVAL
DISAGREES--



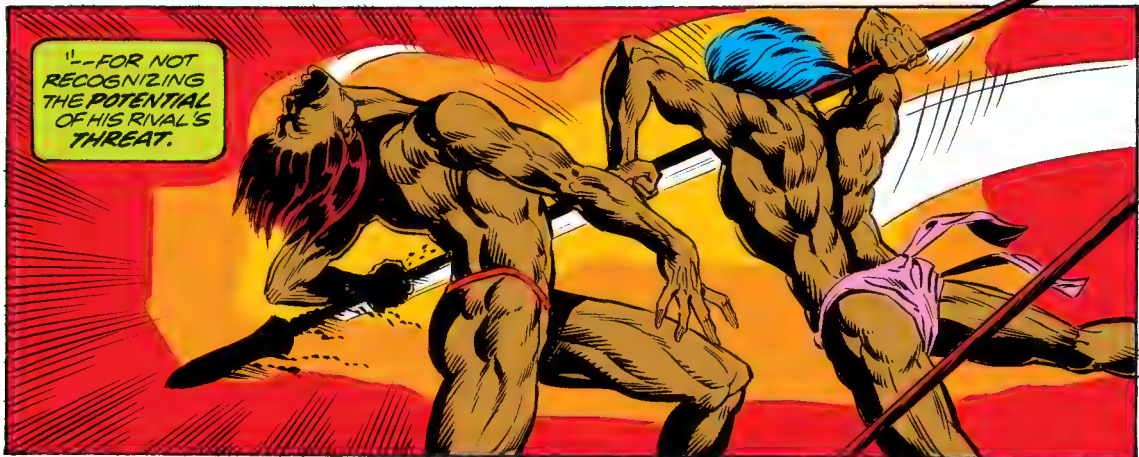
"--WITH THE
THREAT OF
VIOLENCE.



"THERE IS SILENCE
THEN, AS THE CHIEF
PROVES HIMSELF
A FOOL--

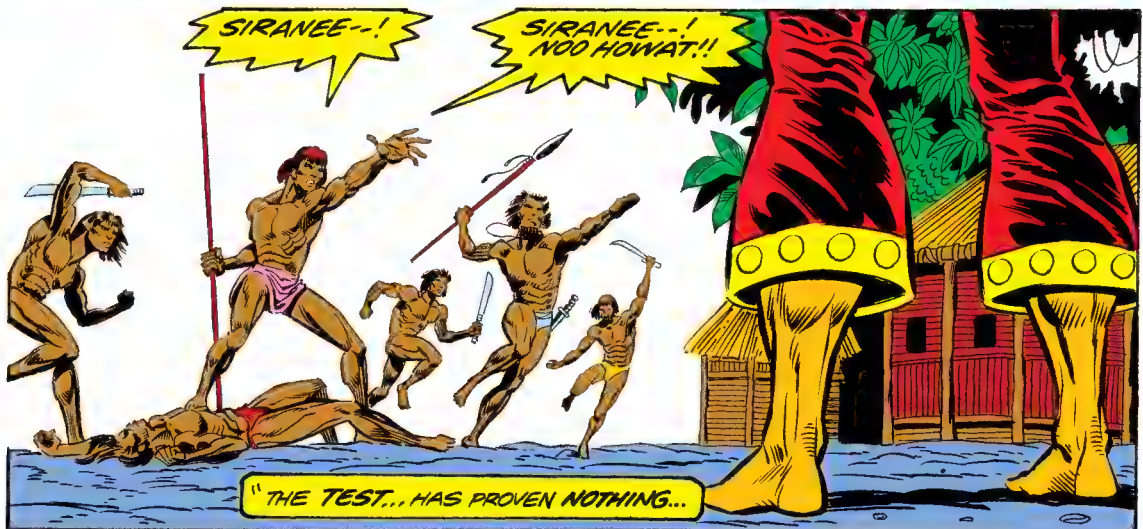


"--FOR NOT
RECOGNIZING
THE POTENTIAL
OF HIS RIVAL'S
THREAT.

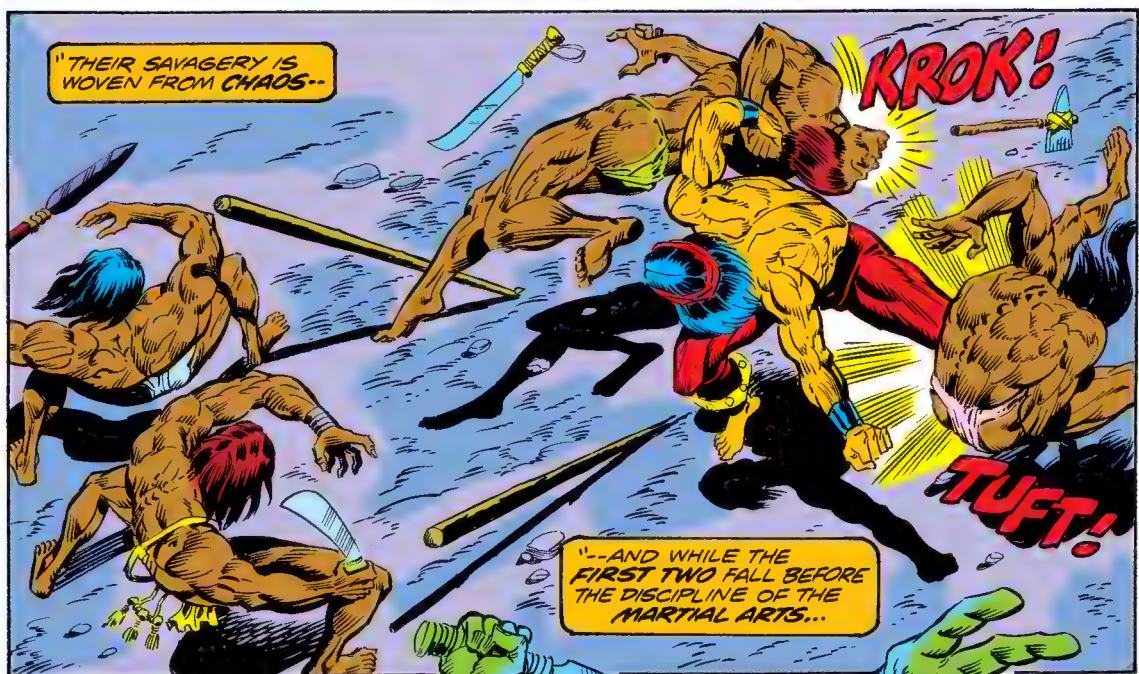


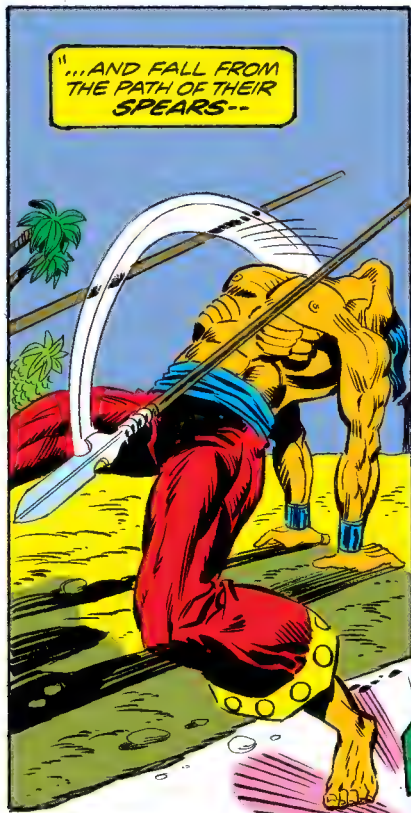
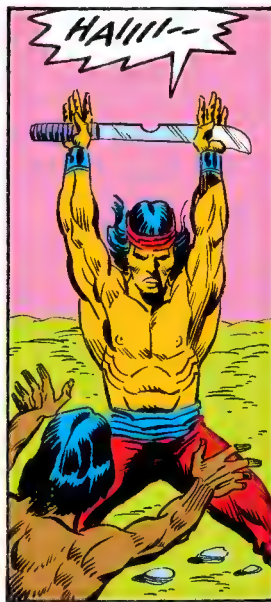
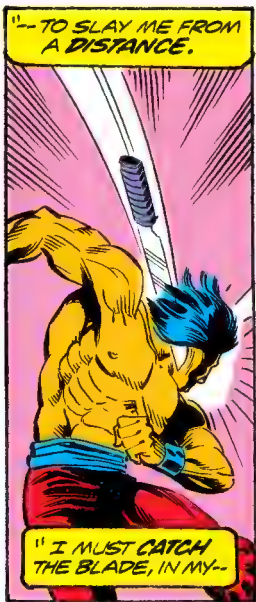
SIRANEE--!

SIRANEE--!
NOO HOWAT!!

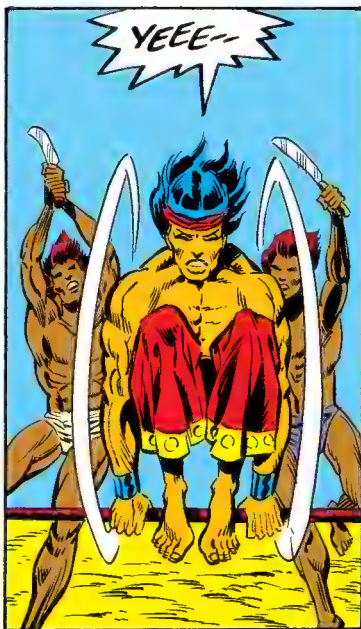


"THE TEST... HAS PROVEN NOTHING..."





"GUIDED WITH **POOR AIM**, THE
SPEAR IS OF NO **DANGER**
TO ME, BUT **PLUCKED FROM**
THE **AIR**...



"THE REMAINING JIVAROS
CHOOSE TO ATTACK IN **FORCE**."



"BUT UNLIKE BLADES OF GRASS
TOUCHED BY A COMMON WIND,
THEY DO NOT MOVE IN **UNISON**..."



"INSTEAD, THEY ARE THE WAVES OF AN OCEAN
IN **STORM**-- CLASHING, AND DROWNING ONE
ANOTHER'S **FURY**..."

"AND I BECOME THE
STORM, CHANNELING
ITS FORCE INTO THE RANKS
OF **CHAOS**... TRANSFORM-
ING THEIR **NUMBERS** INTO
SELF-IMPOSED **BARRIERS**...

"... STRIKING AS THE
LIGHTNING STRIKES...

"... AND WHIRLING
AS THE **WIND**...







I AM **GRATEFUL** THAT YOU HAVE SAVED MY **LIFE**...



... BUT FU MANGHU STILL WISHES YOUR **DEATH**!!



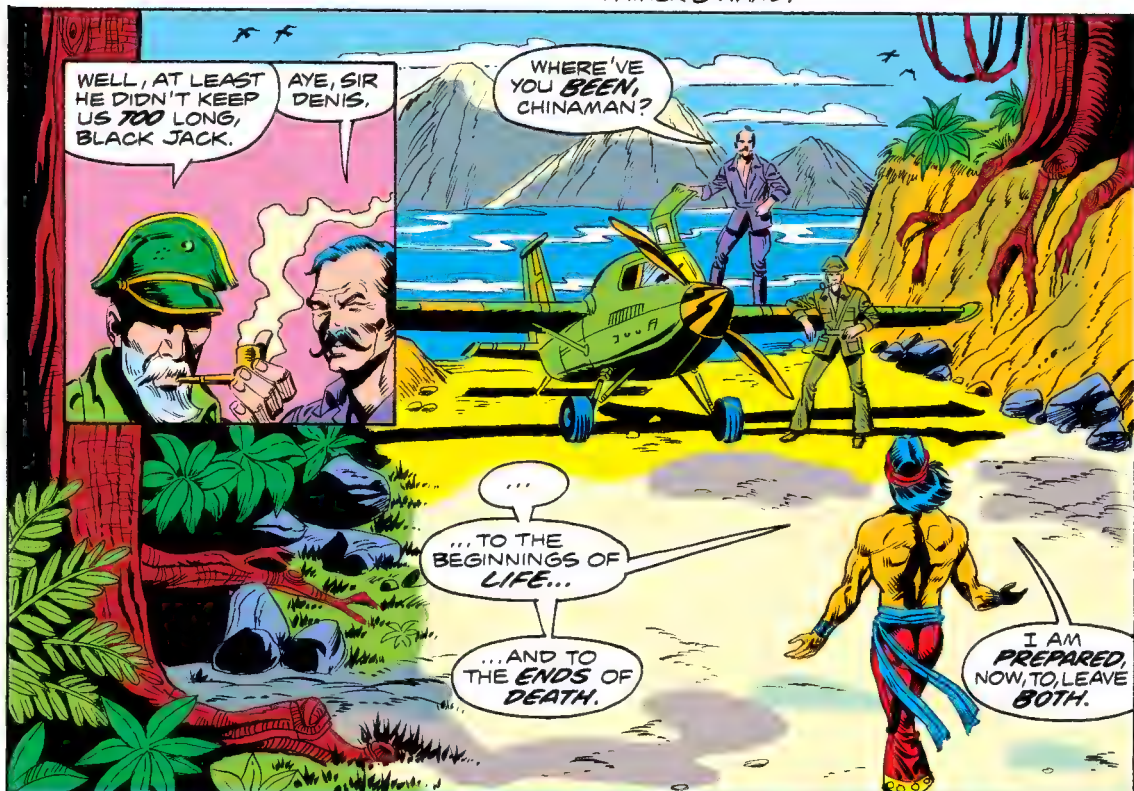
"AS A CHILD IN HONAN, CHINA, I WITNESSED MY FATHER EXPRESS **GRATITUDE** TO A DACOIT WHO HAD SAVED HIS LIFE FROM AN ENEMY'S ATTACK. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, IT WAS THE **ONLY** TIME MY FATHER EVINCED SUCH EMOTION.

"SEVERAL YEARS LATER, THE DACOIT FAILED TO **ASSASSINATE** THAT SAME ENEMY. IT WAS **WHISPERED** THAT MY FATHER ORDERED THE DACOIT EXECUTED BY **SLOW TORTURE**. I DID NOT BELIEVE THE WHISPERS...

"... UNTIL MY FATHER FORCED ME TO SLAY **DR. PETRIE**, AND SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH FORCED ME TO **REALIZE** WHAT I HAD **DONE**. SINCE THEN, MANY MEN FOR VARIOUS REASONS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED BY MY FATHER'S HAND.

"TODAY, I HAVE SPARED FU MANGHU THE SIN OF **HYPOCRISY**... BY REFUSING TO DIE.

"IT DOES NOT **PLEASE** ME."



WELL, AT LEAST HE DIDN'T KEEP US **TOO** LONG, **BLACK JACK**.

AYE, SIR DENIS.

WHERE'VE YOU **BEEN**, CHINAMAN?

... TO THE **BEGINNINGS** OF **LIFE**...

... AND TO THE **ENDS** OF **DEATH**.

I AM **PREPARED**, NOW, TO, LEAVE **BOTH**.

NEXT ISSUE: THE DAUGHTER OF FU MANGHU!

GIANT-SIZE MASTER
OF KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



3 MAR
02927

50¢

©

68 BIG PAGES

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU™



THE SON OF
FU MANCHU--
IN THE SHATTERING
SHOCKER
YOU NEVER
EXPECTED
TO SEE!

ALL-NEW! **FIRES
OF REBIRTH!**

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

DOUG MOENCH
Thought

PAUL GULACY
Vision

VINNIE COLLETTA
Strength

TOM ORZECOWSKI, Symbols
BILL MANTLO, Hues

LEN WEIN
Control

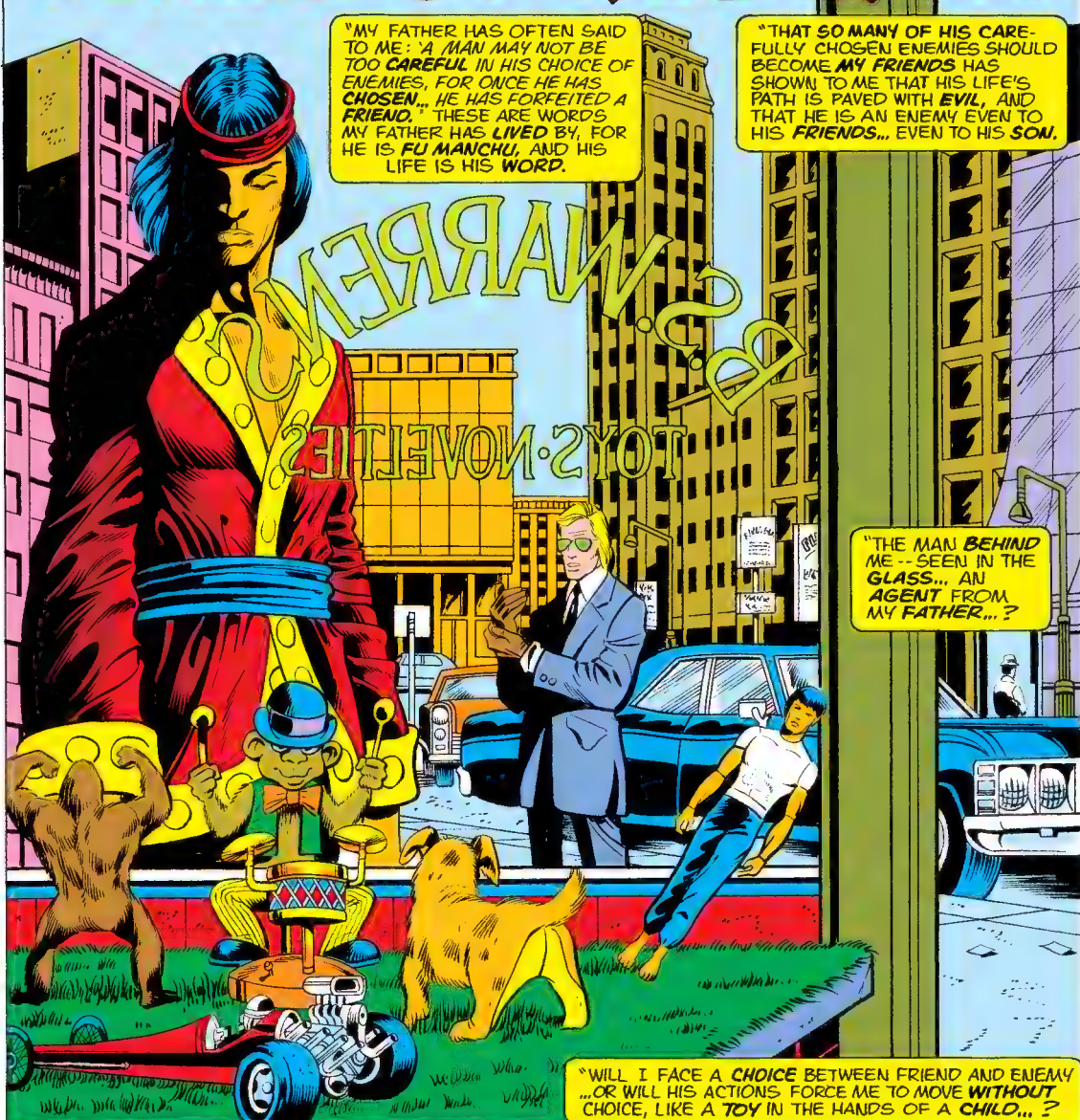
FIRES OF REBIRTH

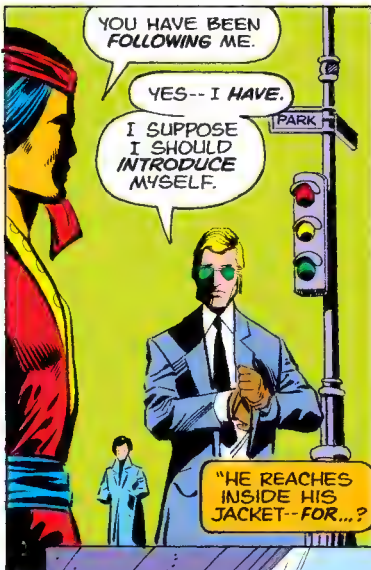
"MY FATHER HAS OFTEN SAID TO ME: 'A MAN MAY NOT BE TOO CAREFUL IN HIS CHOICE OF ENEMIES, FOR ONCE HE HAS CHOSEN...' HE HAS FORFEITED A FRIEND.' THESE ARE WORDS MY FATHER HAS LIVED BY, FOR HE IS FU MANCHU, AND HIS LIFE IS HIS WORD.

"THAT SO MANY OF HIS CAREFULLY CHOSEN ENEMIES SHOULD BECOME MY FRIENDS HAS SHOWN TO ME THAT HIS LIFE'S PATH IS PAVED WITH EVIL, AND THAT HE IS AN ENEMY EVEN TO HIS FRIENDS... EVEN TO HIS SON.

"THE MAN BEHIND ME -- SEEN IN THE GLASS... AN AGENT FROM MY FATHER...?"

"WILL I FACE A CHOICE BETWEEN FRIEND AND ENEMY... OR WILL HIS ACTIONS FORCE ME TO MOVE WITHOUT CHOICE, LIKE A TOY IN THE HANDS OF A CHILD...?"





YOU HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING ME.

YES-- I HAVE.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF.

"HE REACHES INSIDE HIS JACKET--FOR...?"



MY CREDENTIALS. SIR DENIS SENT ME.

TO GET YOU.

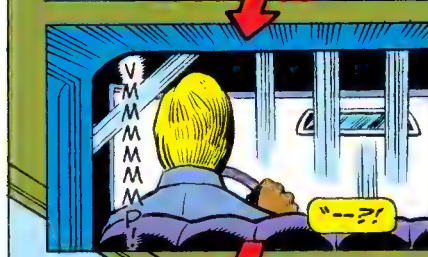


"THEN HE HAS CHOSEN AS I HAVE, BECOMING AN ENEMY TO MY FATHER."

"I WILL GO WITH HIM..."



"...AS A FRIEND."



"--?!"



"GAS--!"

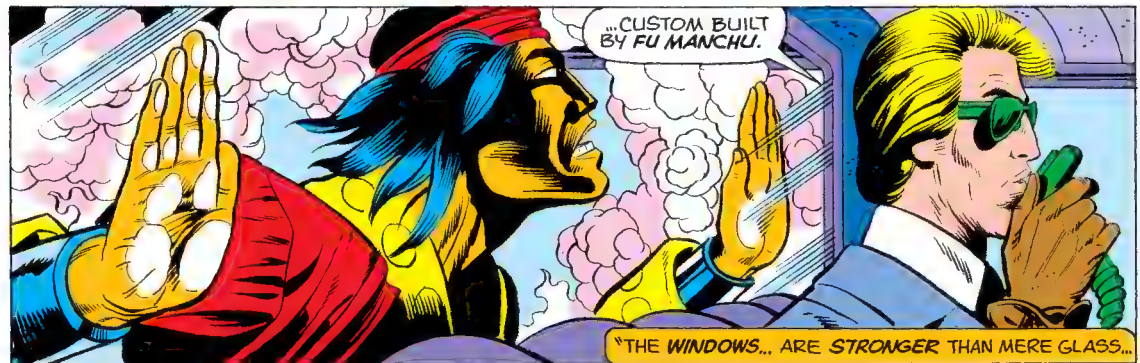


"I HAVE BEEN A FOOL--"

"...BASING MY JUDGEMENT ON A PIECE OF PAPER, RATHER THAN EYES WHICH HAVE HIDDEN BEHIND DARK GLASSES."

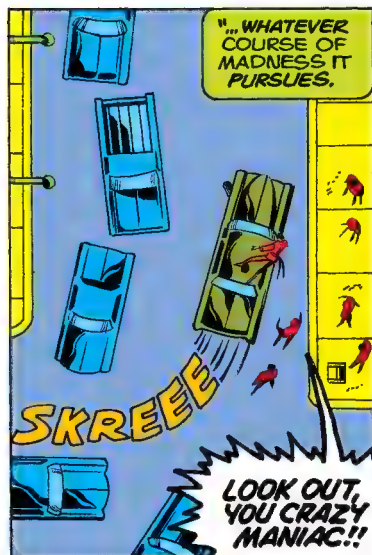
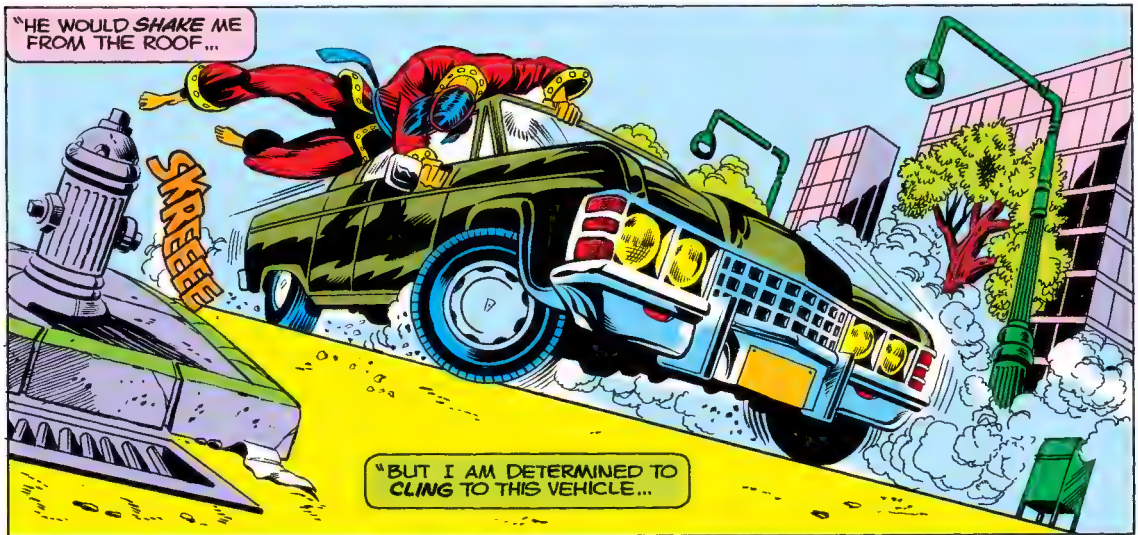
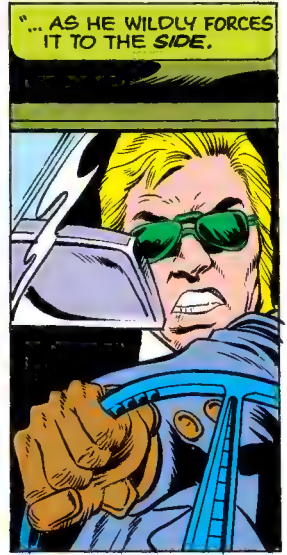
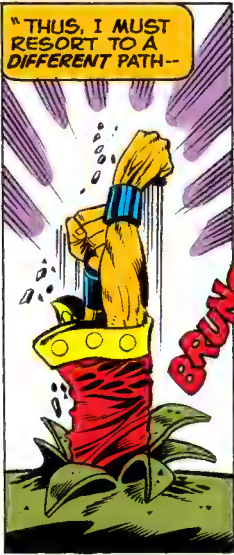


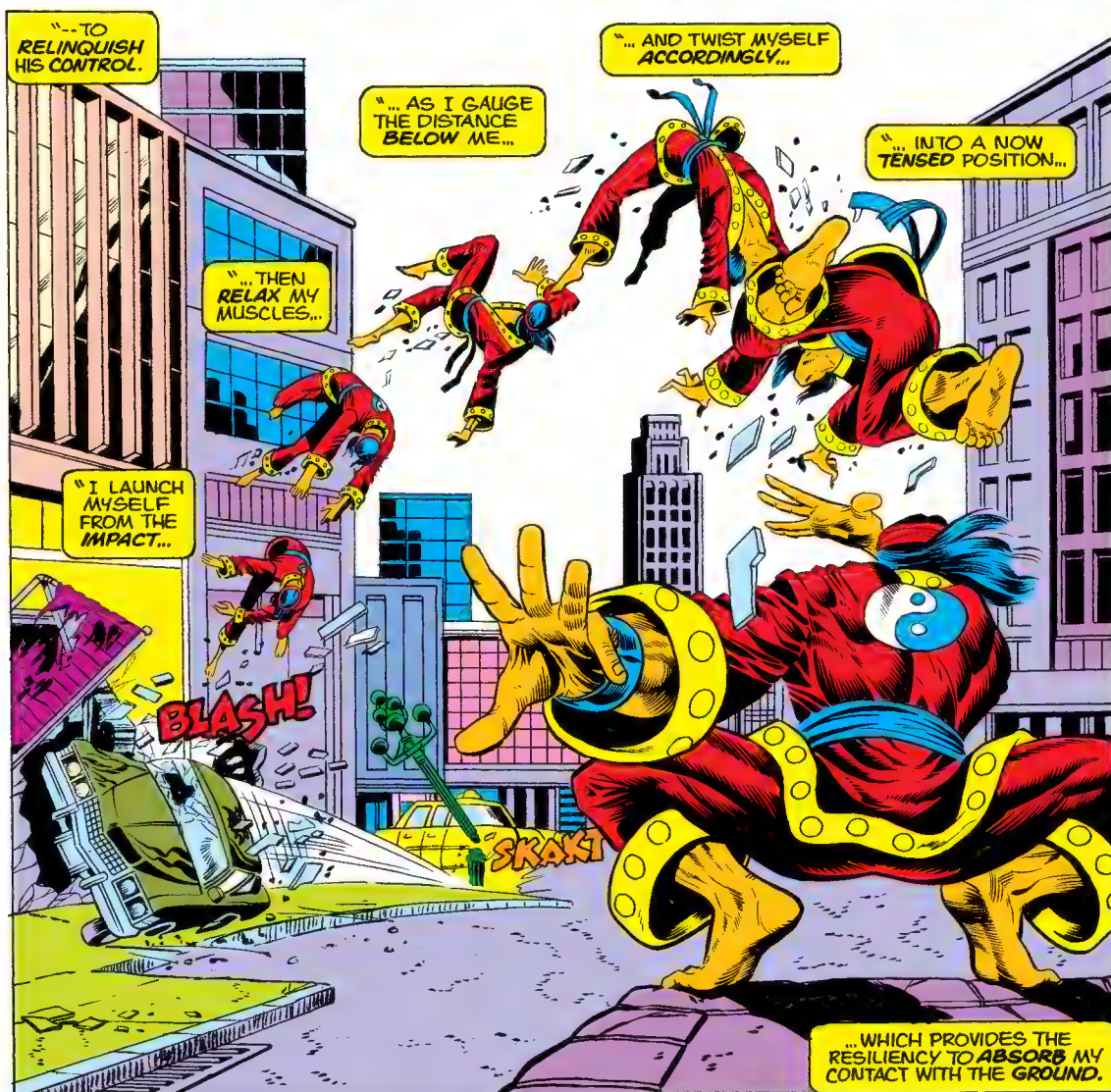
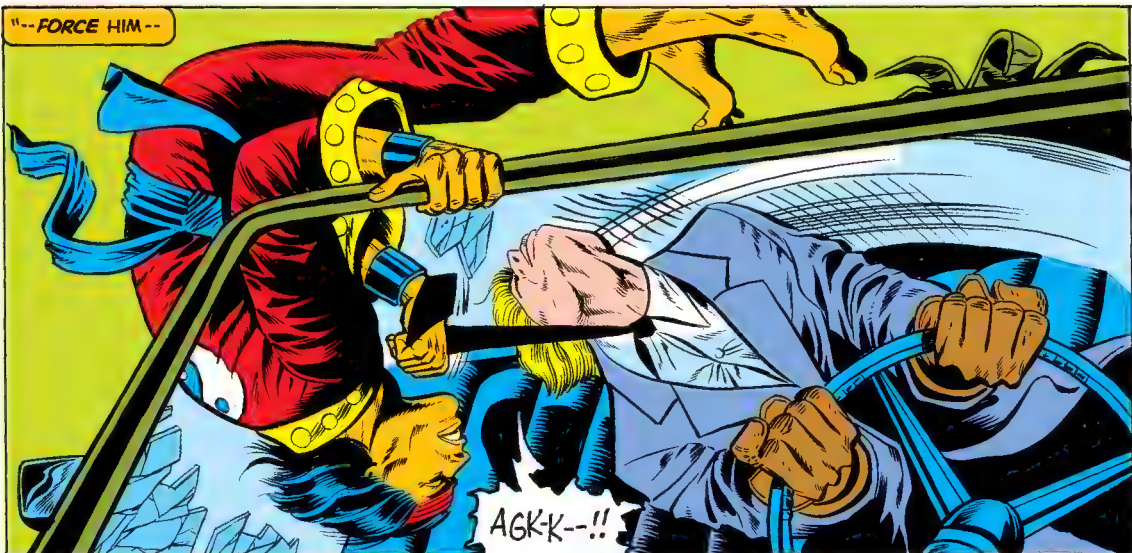
IT'S NO USE, SHANG-CHI. YOUR BACK-SEAT TOMB IS ESCAPE-PROOF...

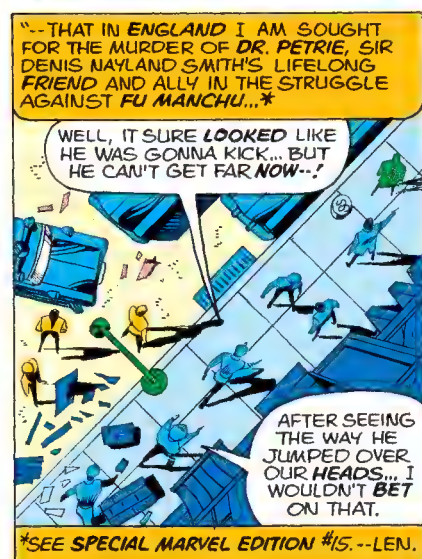
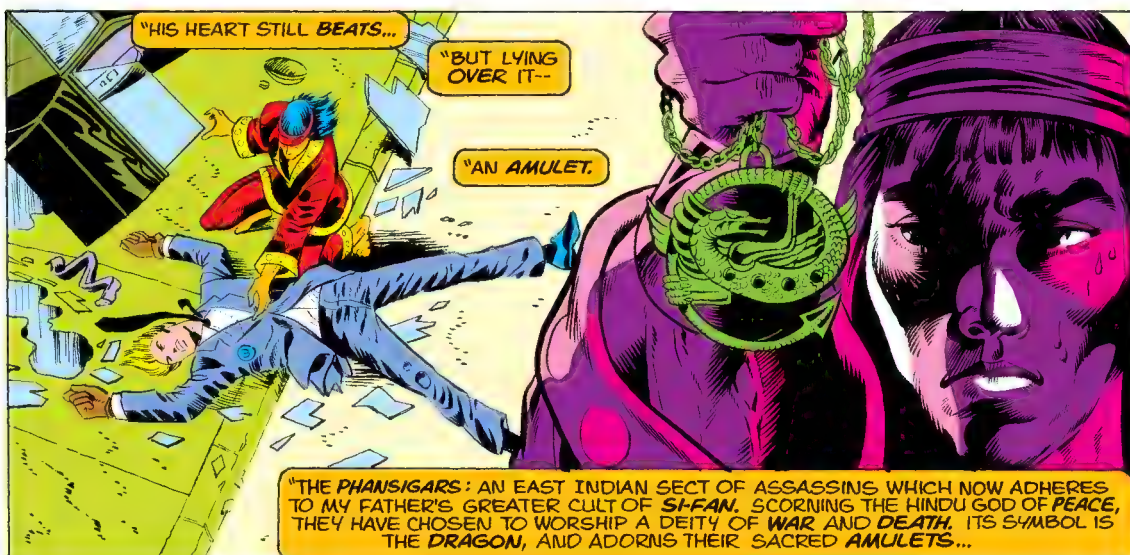


"...CUSTOM BUILT BY FU MANCHU."

"THE WINDOWS... ARE STRONGER THAN MERE GLASS..."







"CENTRAL PARK WEST: THE TOWNHOUSE WHICH SMITH HAS RECENTLY SECURED FOR HIS NEW YORK RESIDENCE AND BASE OF OPERATIONS."

"ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN HERE ONLY ONCE BEFORE, IT IS A PLACE WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FORGET."

VERY GOOD TO SEE YOU, MASTER SHANG-CHI.

PLEASE ENTER.

SMITH...?

I'M AFRAID THAT SIR DENIS WAS CALLED AWAY ON MOST VITAL BUSINESS...

... BUT HE DID INSTRUCT ME TO ACCORD YOU EVERY HOSPITALITY IN HIS ABSENCE.

INDEED, HE HAS REQUESTED THAT YOU STAY HERE, AVAILABLE FOR HIS CONTACT OR RETURN.

PLEASE... BE SEATED. I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL FIND THE COUCHES EXTREMELY AMENABLE TO RELAXATION.

THANK YOU.

Er... VERY GOOD, MASTER SHANG-CHI.

I SHALL INFORM SIR DENIS OF YOUR PRESENCE THE MOMENT HE ARRIVES.

"SMITH'S SERVANT DEPARTS, AND I RETURN MY ATTENTION TO THE AMULET..."

"...ALLOWING MY MIND TO RISE ABOVE ALL OTHER THOUGHTS, TO FILL WITH NOTHING ELSE. THUS, I DWELL UPON THIS TOKEN OF DEATH HELD BEFORE MY EYES-- STUDY IT, UNTIL I COME TO DWELL WITHIN IT..."

"...UNTIL MY EYES BECOME THE DRAGON'S EYES, AND GAZE UPON THE MANY DEATHS IT HAS COMMANDED AND WITNESSED WITH NEITHER COMPASSION NOR REMORSE."



"AS BODHIDHARMA BEFORE THEM, THE PHANSIGARS ORIGINATED IN INDIA... AND AS BODHIDHARMA'S TEACHINGS SPREAD ACROSS ASIA INTO OLD CHINA, SO TOO DID THE DISCIPLINE OF THE PHANSIGARS REACH CHINA. BUT WHERE BODHIDHARMA TAUGHT ONLY THE GRACEFUL ART OF SELF-DEFENSE, THE PHANSIGARS STUDIED THE BRUTAL ART OF ASSASSINATION. LIGHT OPPOSING DARKNESS, ONE SIDE EXISTING FOR THE OTHER: THE ETERNAL YIN AND YANG. IT IS NOT SURPRISING, THEN, THAT MY FATHER SHOULD LEARN OF THIS NEW FORCE OF DARKNESS AND --"

MASTER SHANG-CHI--
I SHOULD LIKE TO PRESENT
MASTER CLIVE RESTON,
ONE OF SIR DENIS' MOST TRUSTED
FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES.
MASTER RESTON HAS
JUST ARRIVED FROM
LONDON.

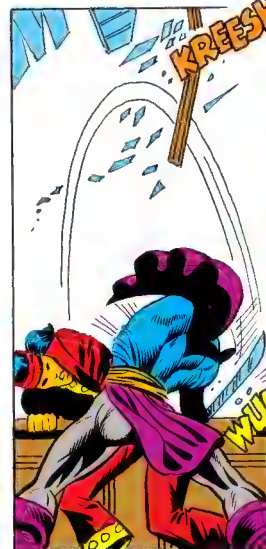
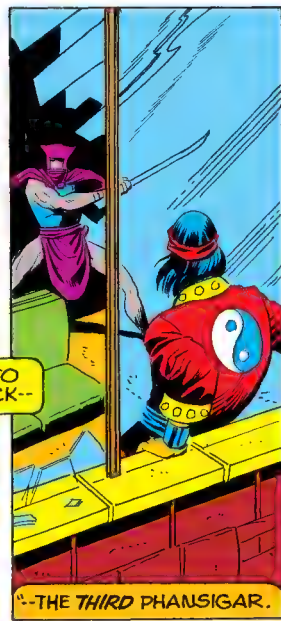
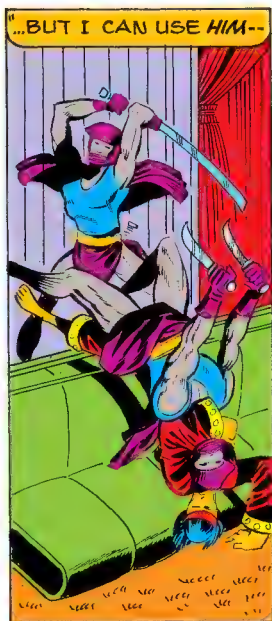
Glad to make your
acquaintance, Shang-Chi.
Smith has spoken of you
more than *once* in the
past and seems to --

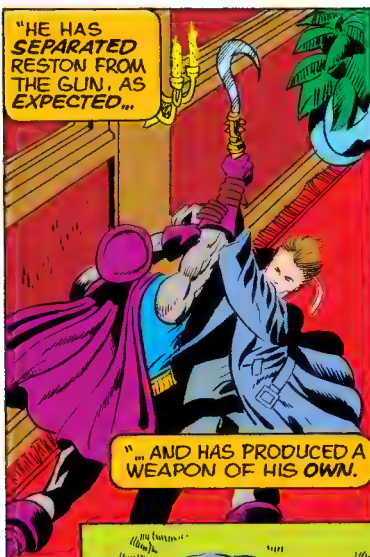
THE DRAGON--! THEN IT IS TRUE!

QUICKLY--
LET ME TAKE
A LOOK AT
THAT--









"HE HAS SEPARATED RESTON FROM THE GUN, AS EXPECTED..."

"... AND HAS PRODUCED A WEAPON OF HIS OWN."



SKRIP

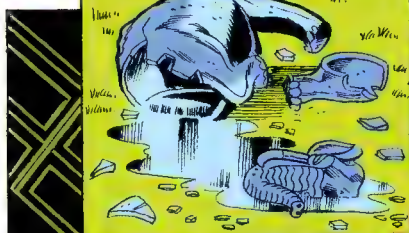
"IT IS DANGEROUS TO APPROACH TWO MEN ENGAGED IN COMBAT, BUT I MUST INTERCEDE BEFORE RESTON--"



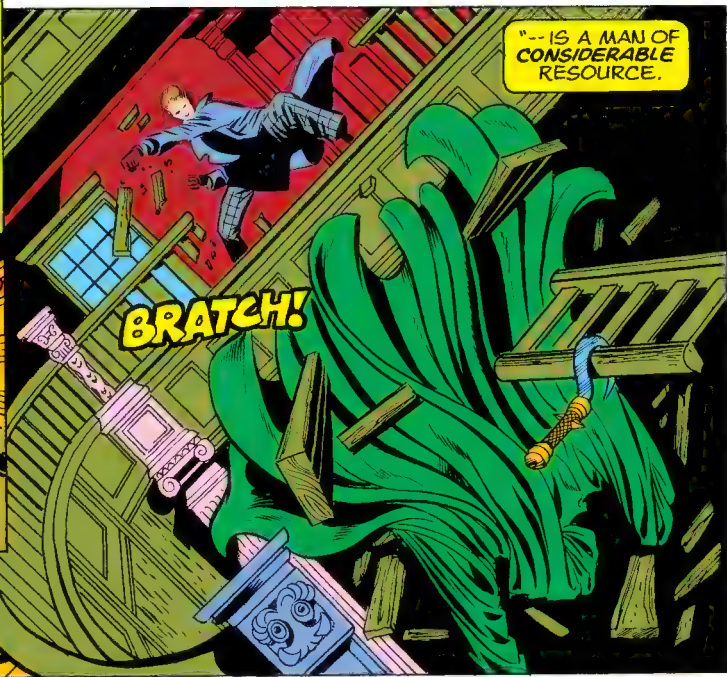
"NO."

WHUFF

"IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE AGENT--"



K-TAK!



"-- IS A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE RESOURCE."

BRATCH!



CAN'T SAY I'D FANCY ANOTHER TUSSELE WITH THE BLOKE--

--BUT IT WAS A RATHER INTERESTING WORKOUT.

"HE HAS CONDUCTED HIMSELF WITH MORE SKILL THAN I WOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED FROM THE FLOW OF HIS MOVEMENTS. I WOULD EMBRACE HIM NOW, AS AN ALLY... BUT HE HAS EXHIBITED A TRAIT I HAVE COME TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE WESTERN WORLD, AND ONE I FIND DISTASTEFUL. HE HAS CONCLUDED A NECESSARY DISPLAY OF VIOLENCE... WITH UNNECESSARY HUMOR. DO MEN OF THE WEST ACTUALLY LAUGH AT PAIN --? OR IS THEIR HUMOR MERELY A RELEASE OF TENSION NOT MASTERED...?"



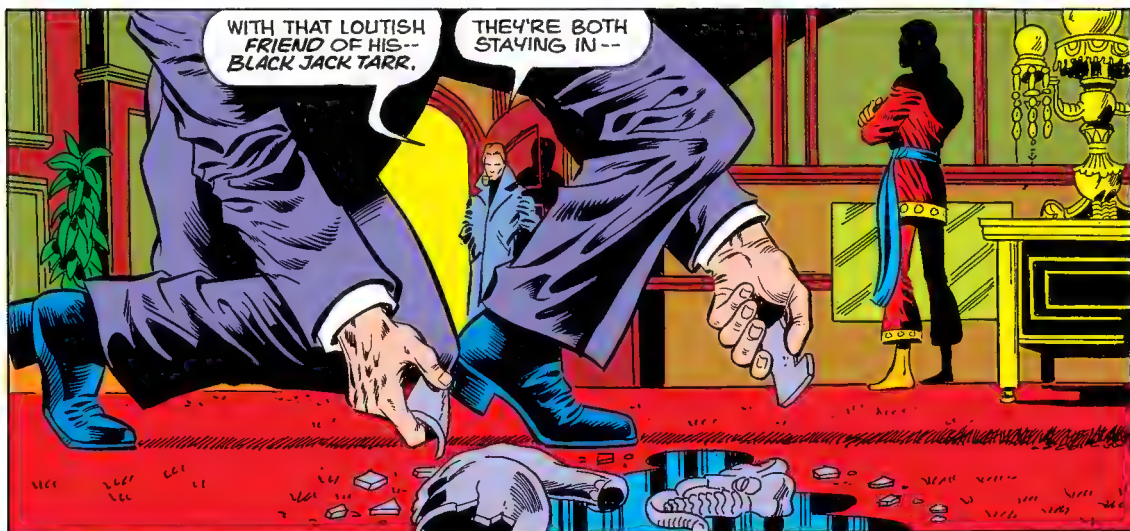
SHANG-CHI, YOU IMPRESS ME AS A MAN WHO'S EVERY BIT AS CIRCUMSPECT AND SUSPICIOUS AS MY FATHER WAS.

HE RATED A LICENSE TO KILL, AND HE NEEDED IT-- BECAUSE HE HAD EVERY REASON TO BE CIRCUMSPECT AND SUSPICIOUS... JUST AS YOU HAVE. NO ONE EVER CALLED MY FATHER PARANOID, AND NO ONE WILL EVER CALL YOU PARANOID, SHANG-CHI...

Shang-Chi, the bearer of this note, Clive Reston, is to be granted your full trust.

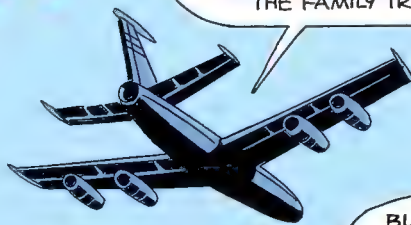
Nayland Smith

HE WAS A GOOD MAN, MY FATHER-- THE BEST SPECIAL OPERATIVE HER MAJESTY EVER ENLISTED...



LONDON

CHAPTER II



--A GOOD MAN, MY GREAT-UNCLE. HE WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE **INTELLECTUAL** THAN MY FATHER, BUT OF COURSE HE **WOULD BE...** ORIGINATING ON MY **MOTHER'S** SIDE OF THE FAMILY TREE.

BUT AS I WAS **SAYING**, HE WAS **EXCEPTIONALLY** FOND OF THE VIOLIN. HE PLAYED IT TO **ALL** HOURS OF THE NIGHT, CLAIMING IT HELPED HIM TO **THINK**, AND JUDGING FROM THE **RESULTS** HE MANAGED TO ACHIEVE, I'M INCLINED TO ---

EXCUSE ME, MR. RESTON. I DO NOT WISH TO INTERRUPT YOUR **REMINISCENCE**, BUT A MEMORY OF MY OWN HAS VISITED ME... A MEMORY OF WHICH I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD BE **INFORMED** BEFORE WE REACH LONDON.



THE ENGLISH AUTHORITIES STILL WISH TO **APPREHEND** ME... FOR **MURDER**.

OH, YES... THAT NASTY LITTLE BIT OF BUSINESS...



MY **GREAT-UNCLE** WOULD CONSIDER IT AN **ELEMENTARY** MATTER FOR A MAN OF KEEN WIT AND **RESOURCE**...

...SO WITH THIS **TRENCHCOAT** ON YOUR **BACK** AND THIS **FALSIFIED PASSPORT** IN YOUR **HAND**, I DON'T SEE HOW YOU COULD **FAIL** TO **PENETRATE** CUSTOMS.

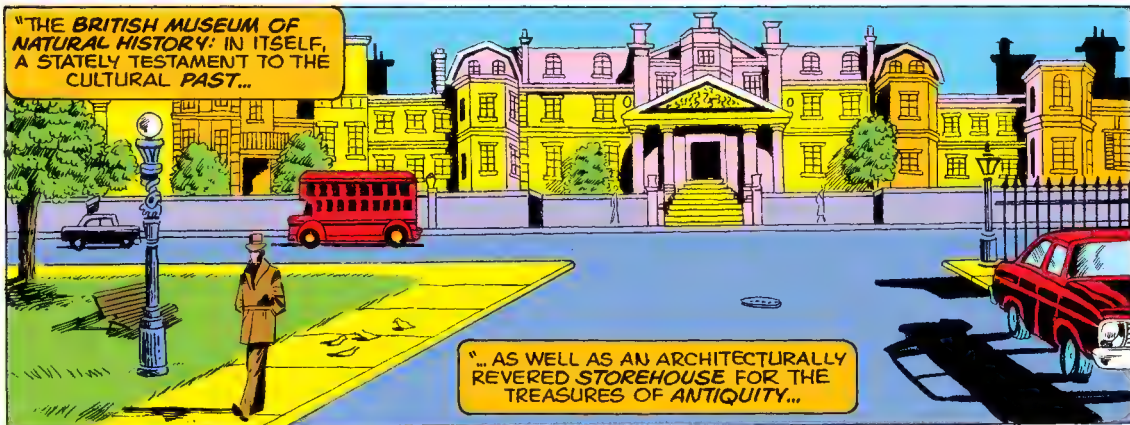


IT'S DONE ALL THE TIME -- BY US...

...AND THEM.



"THE BRITISH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY: IN ITSELF, A STATELY TESTAMENT TO THE CULTURAL PAST..."



"... AS WELL AS AN ARCHITECTURALLY REVERED STOREHOUSE FOR THE TREASURES OF ANTIQUITY..."

"... MANY OF WHICH HAVE BEEN DESTROYED LESS THAN FIVE HOURS AGO."

YES--IT'S CONSISTENT THAT THEY SHOULD STRIKE HERE. THEY'D BE RIGHT AT HOME IN THIS ORIENTALOGY HALL.

AND THIS ISN'T THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT, CLIVE. EACH PREVIOUS OCCURRENCE HAS LEFT THE SAME LEGACY--MUCH DESTROYED BUT NOTHING TAKEN.

ALL WE MAY DEDUCE IS THAT THE PHANSIGARS WANT SOMETHING, AND HAVE YET TO FIND IT.

SIR DENIS... HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS THE PHANSIGARS?

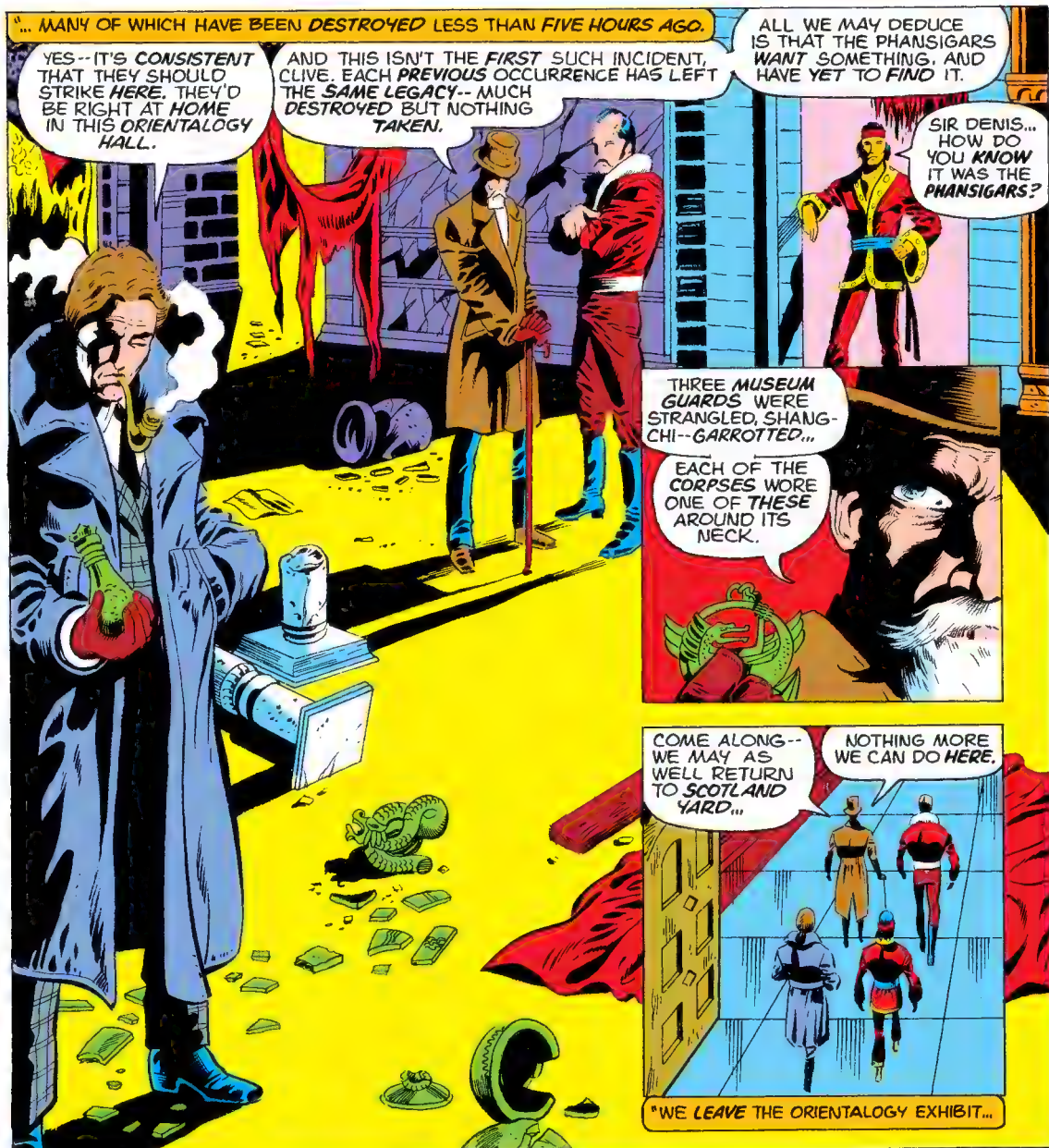
THREE MUSEUM GUARDS WERE STRANGLED, SHANG-CHI--GARROTED...

EACH OF THE CORPSES WORE ONE OF THESE AROUND ITS NECK.

COME ALONG--WE MAY AS WELL RETURN TO SCOTLAND YARD...

NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO HERE.

"WE LEAVE THE ORIENTALOGY EXHIBIT..."





"... AND PASS THROUGH OTHER SECTIONS OF THIS VAST MUSEUM..."

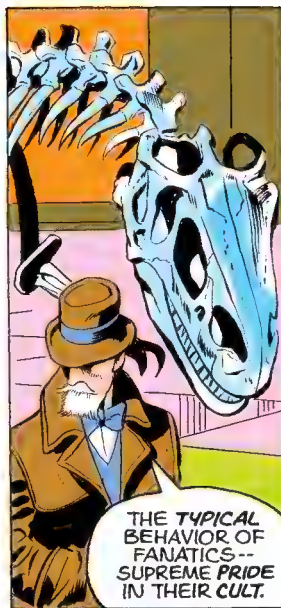
THESE DINOSAURS CERTAINLY WERE BIG GEEZERS, EH, CHI?

YES... IN STATURE.



I'VE BEEN THINKING, SIR DENIS...

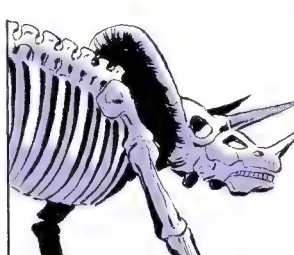
...WHY WOULD THE PHANSIGARS ADVERTISE THEIR WORK BY LEAVING ALL THOSE AMULETS ABOUT?



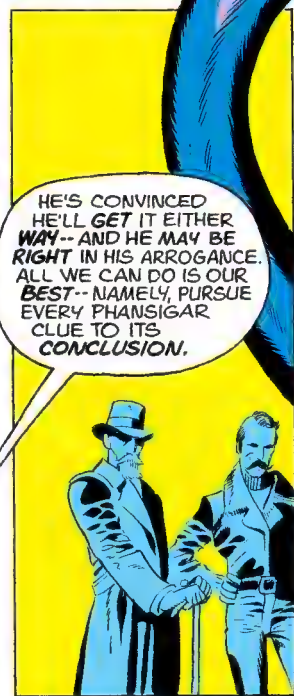
THE TYPICAL BEHAVIOR OF FANATICS-- SUPREME PRIDE IN THEIR CULT.

I'M INCLINED TO DISAGREE, SIR. FU MANCHU WANTS SOMETHING, TO BE SURE-- BUT IT'S NOT THE OBVIOUS.

I HYPOTHEZIZE THAT THESE PHANSIGAR INCIDENTS ARE MERE DIVERSIONS, DESIGNED TO STEER US AWAY FROM FU'S REAL GAMBIT.



DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK I HAVEN'T ALREADY CONSIDERED THAT, RESTON? I'M FULLY AWARE OF FU MANCHU'S PROCLIVITY FOR THE DEVIOUS... AND I SAY HE DOESN'T CARE A WHIT WHETHER WE KNOW WHAT HE'S AFTER OR NOT--!



HE'S CONVINCED HE'LL GET IT EITHER WAY-- AND HE MAY BE RIGHT IN HIS ARROGANCE. ALL WE CAN DO IS OUR BEST-- NAMELY, PURSUE EVERY PHANSIGAR CLUE TO ITS CONCLUSION.



AND I SAY IT'S THE BIGGEST MISTAKE WE COULD MAKE! WE MUST IGNORE THE PHANSIGAR HARASSMENT AS DELIBERATE DIVERSION--



--AND CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON A FULLY-MOUNTED SEARCH FOR FU MANCHU HIMSELF.



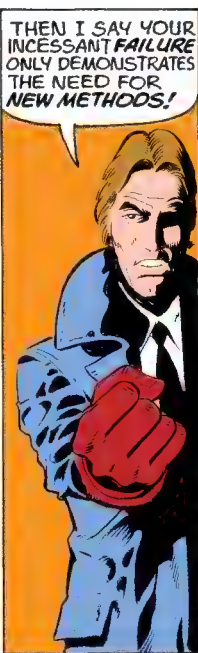
IMPOSSIBLE--!

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED IT?

"BLACK JACK TARR HAS INTIMIDATED THE YOUNG AGENT, PROVIDING THE SILENCE FOR A QUESTION..."



YOU MAY STAKE YOUR ENTIRE **INEXPERIENCED CAREER** ON THE FACT THAT I'VE TRIED IT--FOR MORE THAN FORTY YEARS OF HORROR AND ARTROCITY!



THEN I SAY YOUR INCESSANT **FAILURE** ONLY DEMONSTRATES THE NEED FOR **NEW METHODS!**



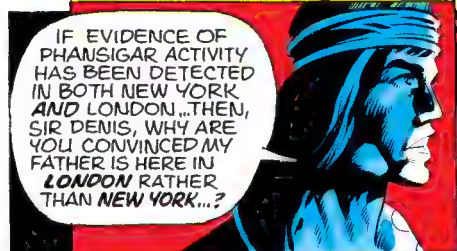
AND I SAY YOU'RE WORKING **UNDER** SIR DENIS--NOT OVER HIM.

SO YOU'LL JUST KEEP YOUR **MODERN CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY** TO YOURSELF--AND FOLLOW ORDERS.



VERY...

...WELL.



IF EVIDENCE OF PHANSIGAR ACTIVITY HAS BEEN DETECTED IN BOTH NEW YORK AND LONDON...THEN, SIR DENIS, WHY ARE YOU CONVINCED MY FATHER IS HERE IN LONDON RATHER THAN NEW YORK...?

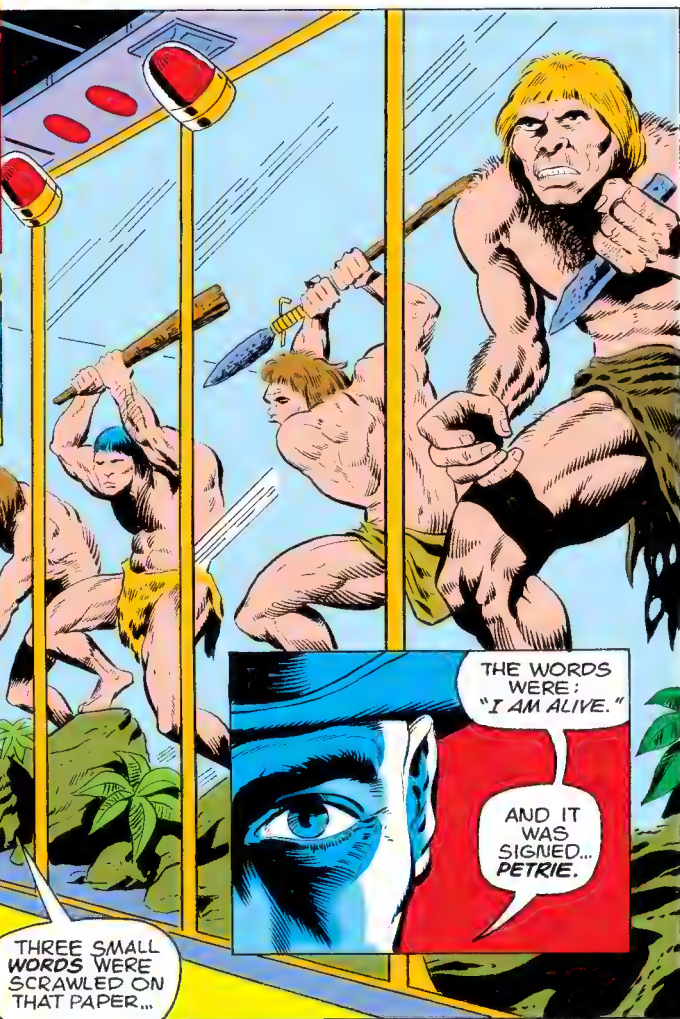
"A DIFFERENT MANNER OF SILENCE..."



"AND--"



BECAUSE A SCRAP OF PAPER WAS FOUND BY A LONDON POLICEMAN, SHANG-CHI...



THREE SMALL WORDS WERE SCRAWLED ON THAT PAPER...



THE WORDS WERE: "I AM ALIVE."

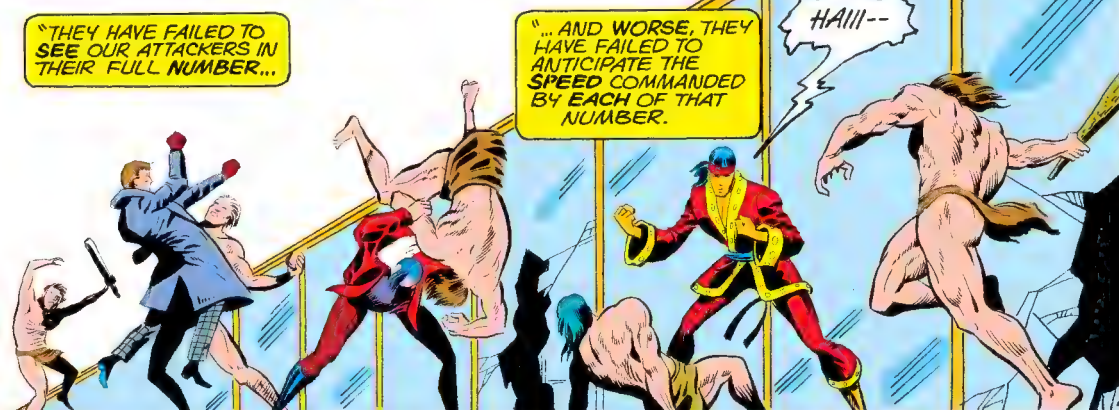
AND IT WAS SIGNED... PETRIE.

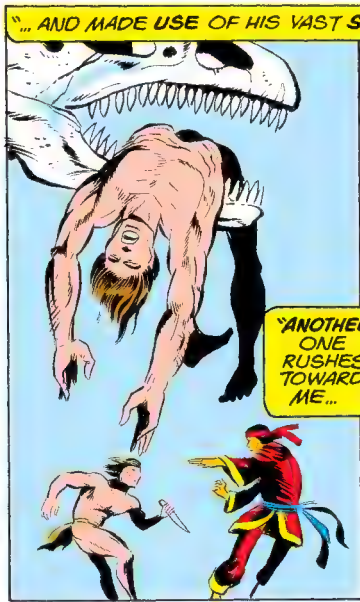
"MY MIND FILLS WITH A VISION WHICH DISPROVES SMITH'S WORDS, FOR MORE THAN A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE MY FATHER DECEIVED ME INTO THE ACT OF--

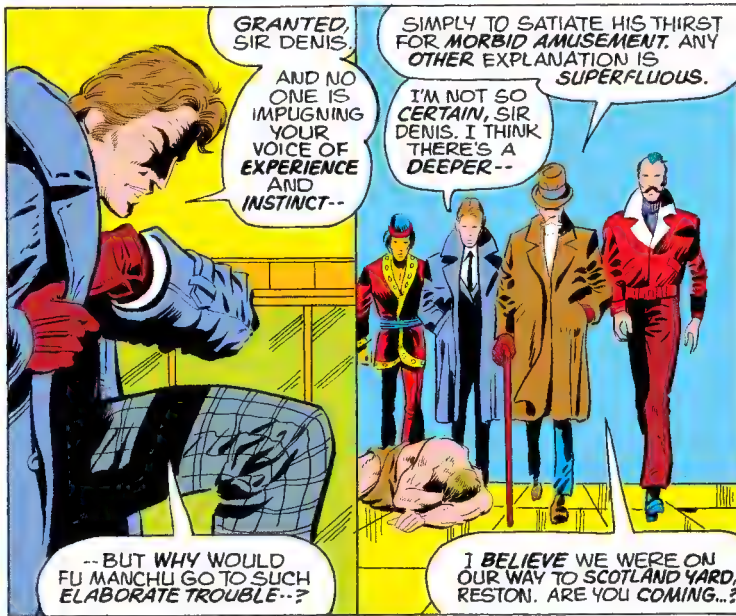
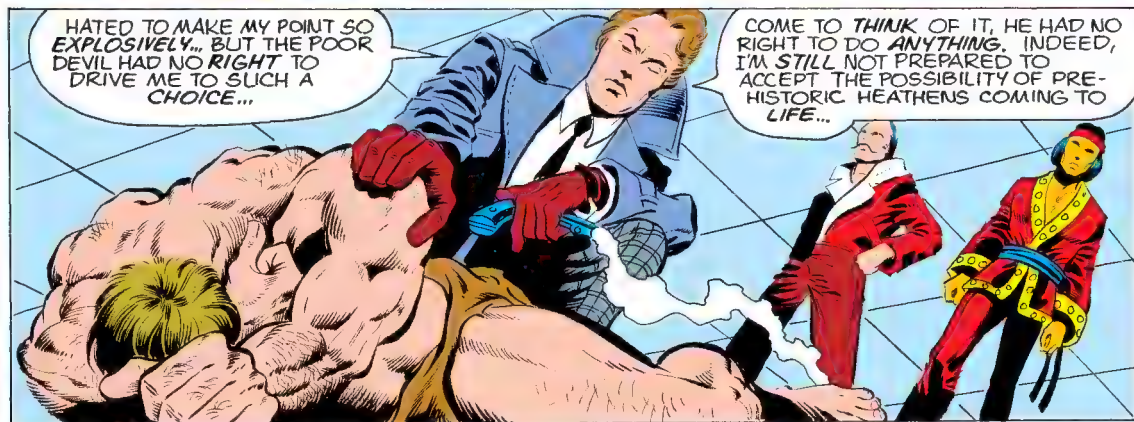
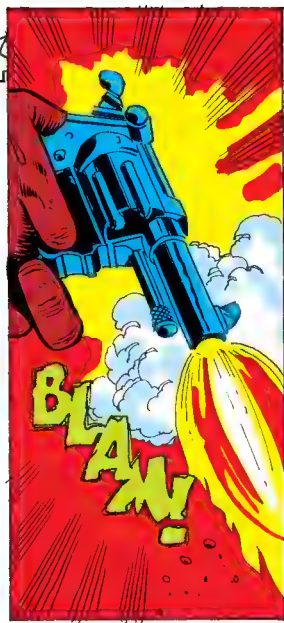
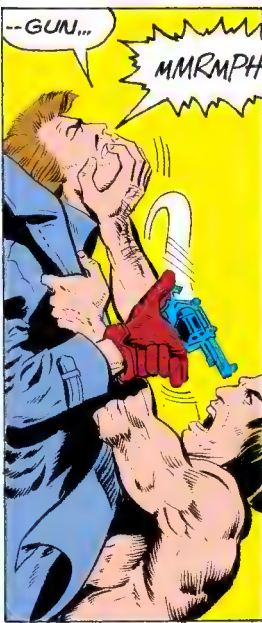
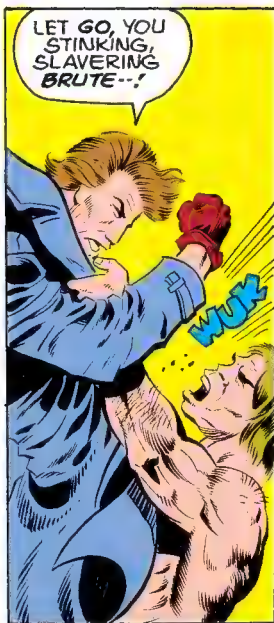


"--SLAYING DR. PETRIE.









CHAPTER III

CURIOS

CRUCIBLE OF DECEIT

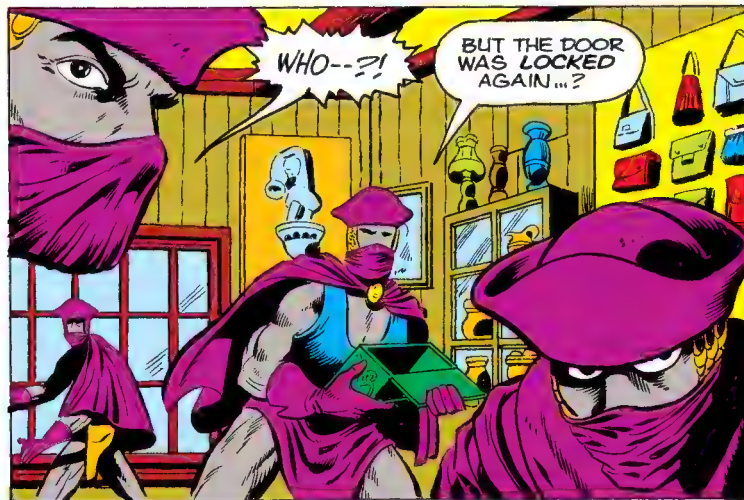
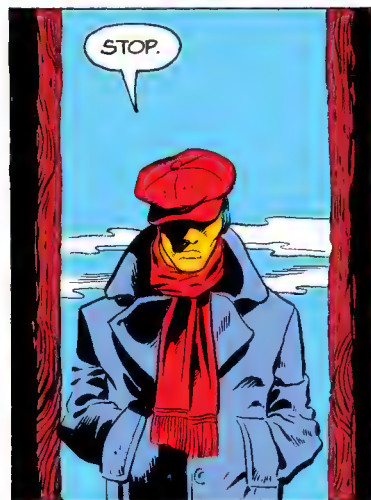
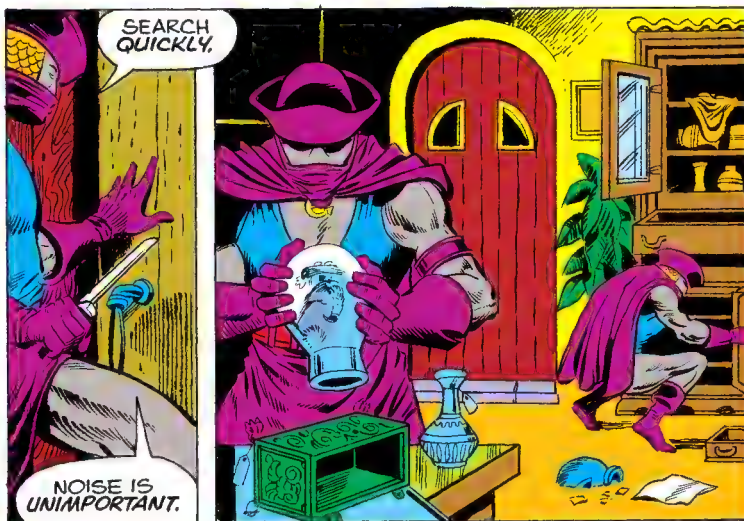
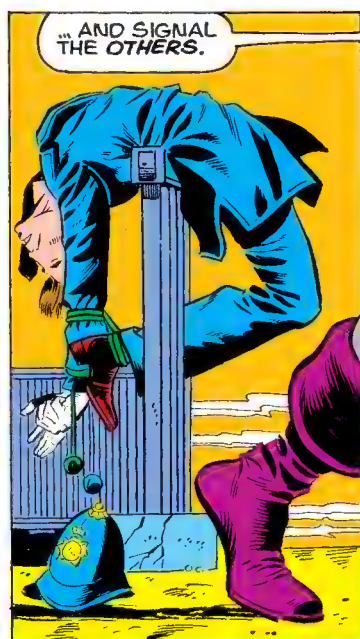
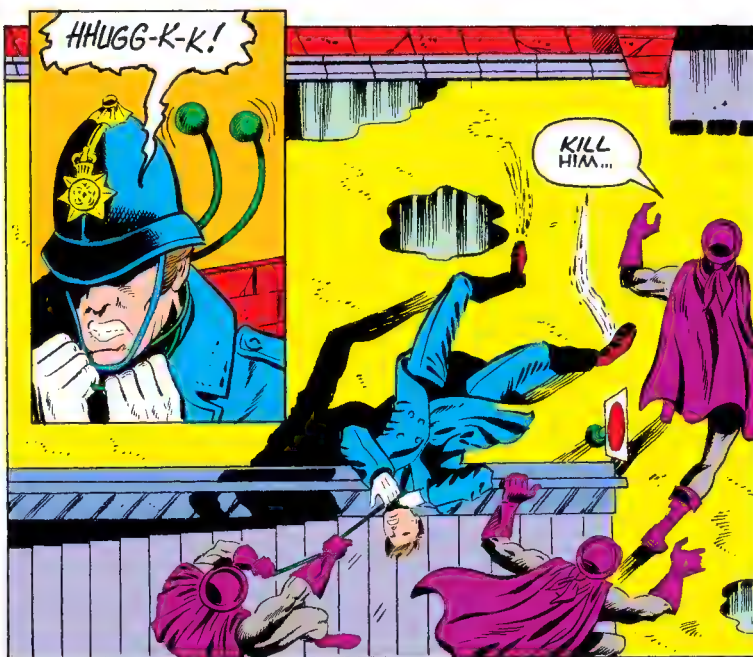
YANKED
OFF PATROL
TO GUARD
A LOAD OF
ORIENTAL
TRINKETS--!

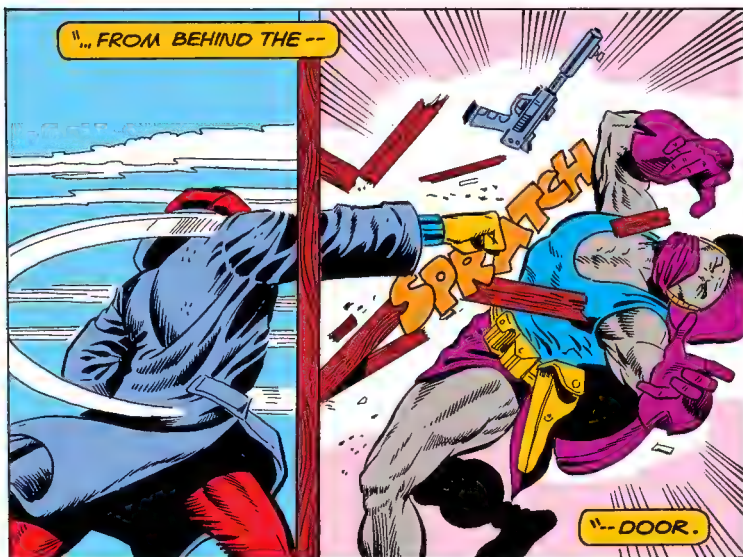
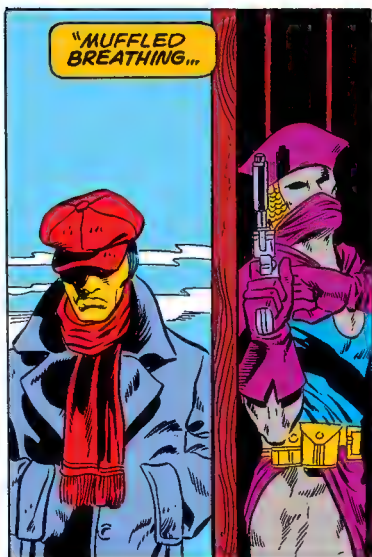
✓ WHO THE
DEVIL WOULD
EVEN BOTHER
STEALING SUCH
RUBBISH...?

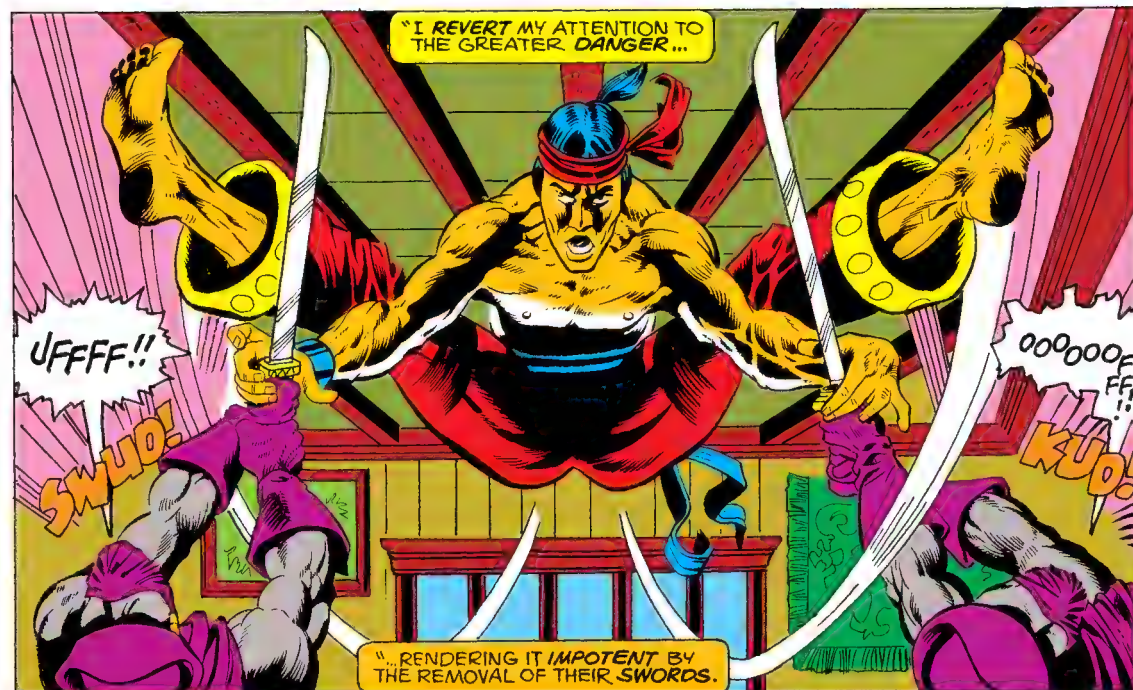


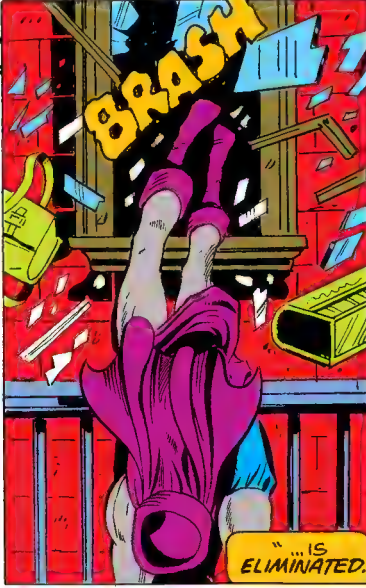
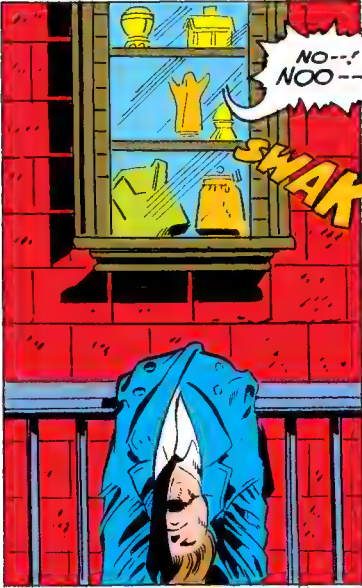
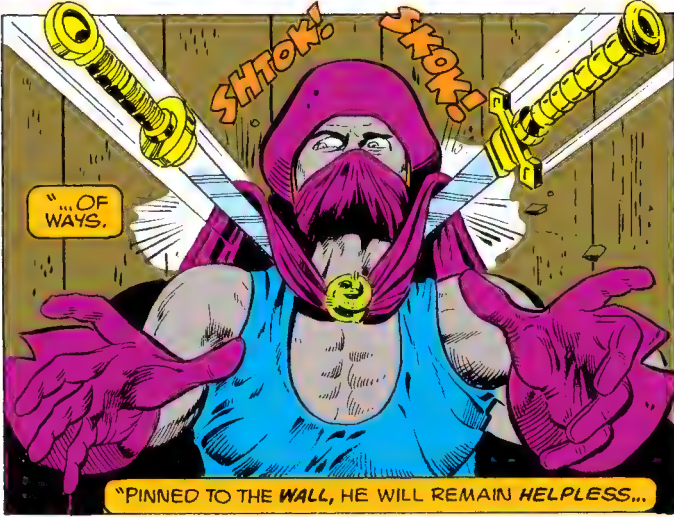
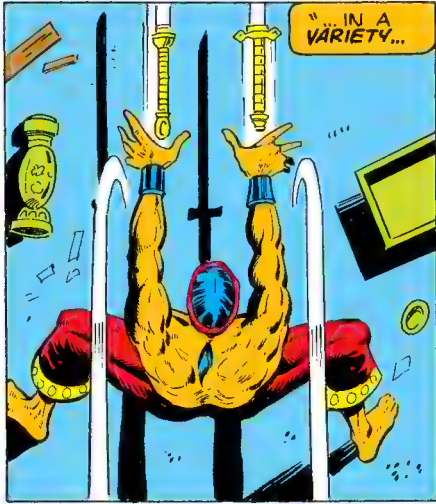
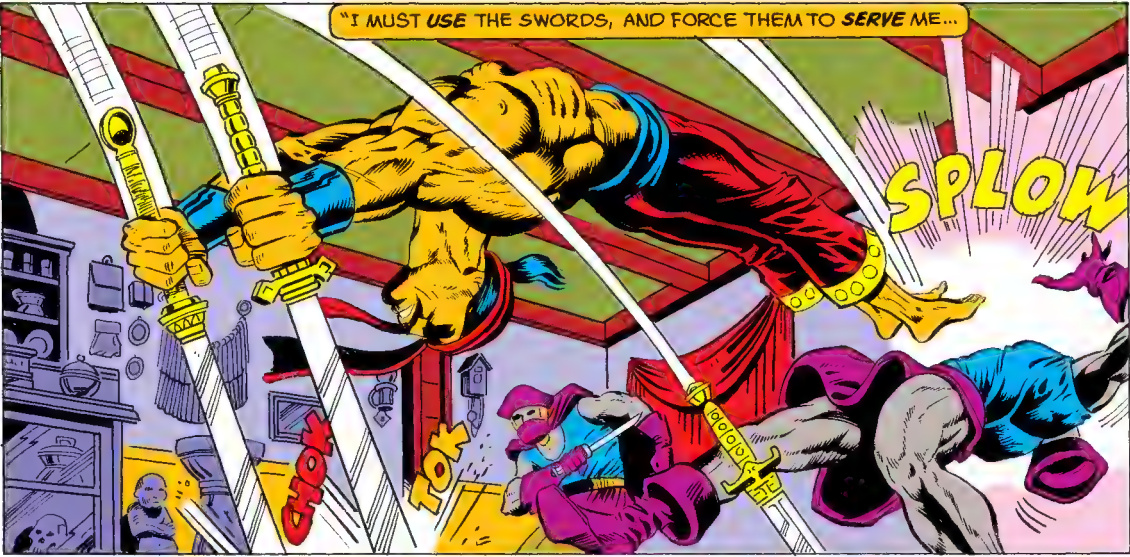
NOW.









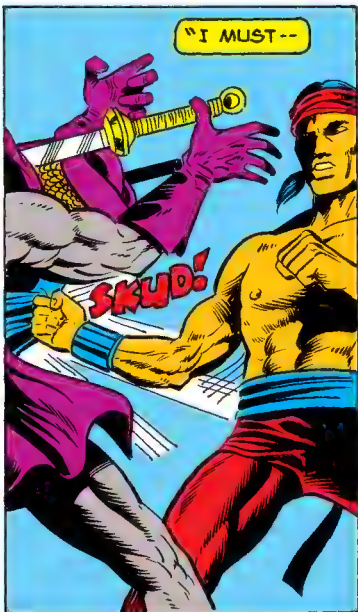


"A CREAKING SOUND FROM THE ONE PINNED TO THE WALL."



"HE HAS ALMOST SUCCEEDED IN WRIGGLING BLADE FROM WOOD."

"I MUST--"

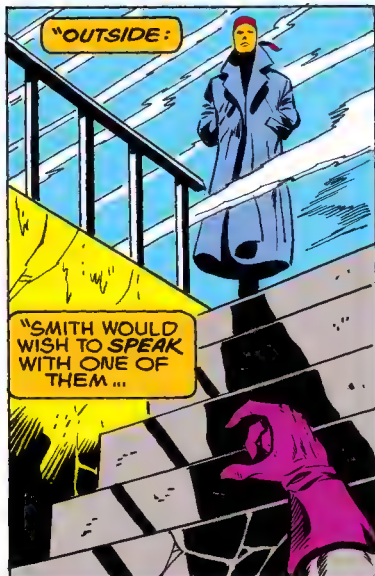


HWOK!



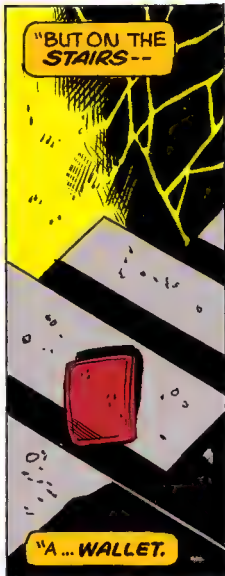
"--STOP HIM."

"OUTSIDE:"



"SMITH WOULD WISH TO SPEAK WITH ONE OF THEM..."

"BUT ON THE STAIRS--"

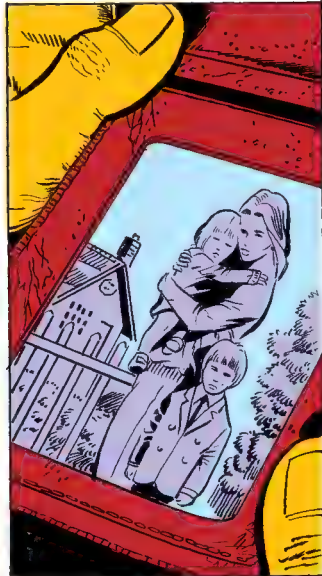


"A ... WALLET."

"IT CONTAINS LITTLE MONEY..."

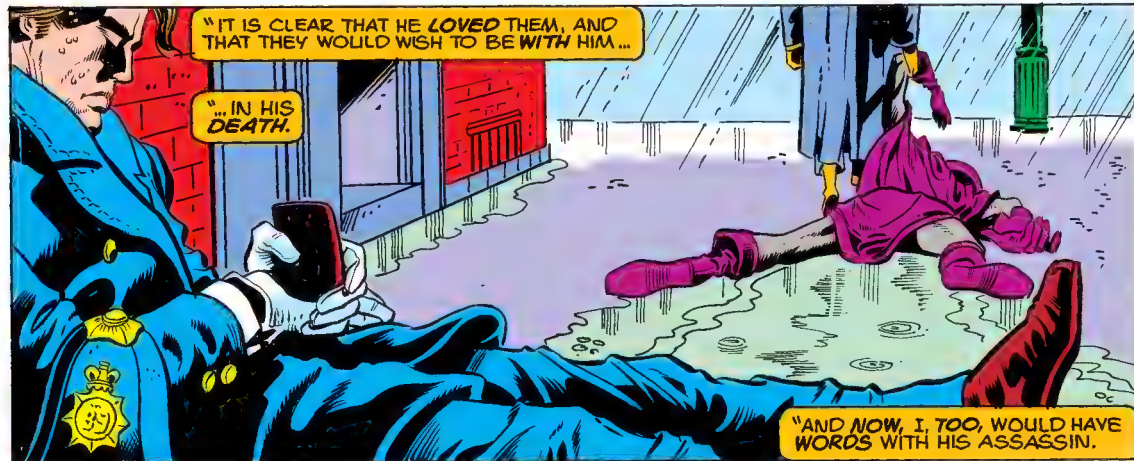


"... BUT SOMETHING OF FAR GREATER VALUE."



"IT IS CLEAR THAT HE LOVED THEM, AND THAT THEY WOULD WISH TO BE WITH HIM..."

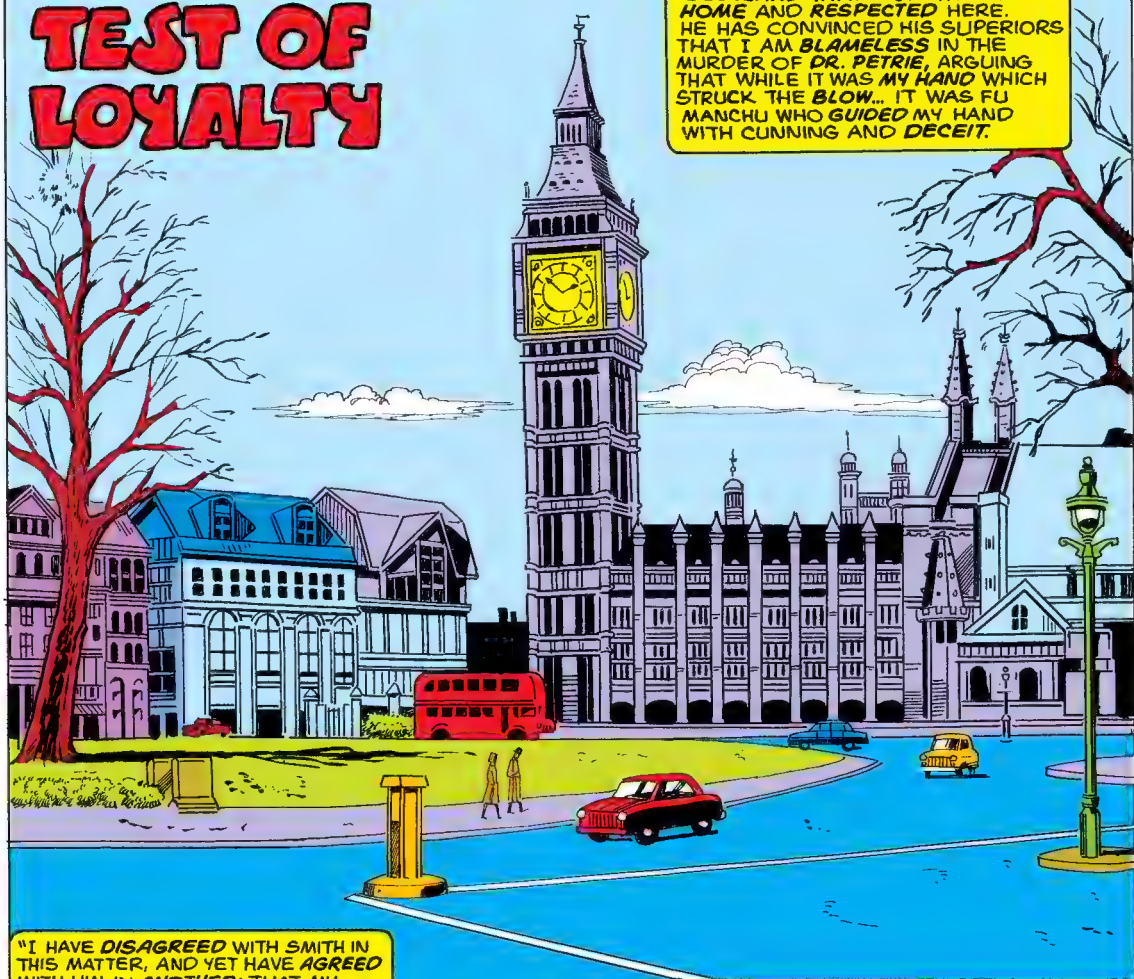
"... IN HIS DEATH."



"AND NOW, I, TOO, WOULD HAVE WORDS WITH HIS ASSASSIN."

CHAPTER IV: TEST OF LOYALTY

"SCOTLAND YARD: SMITH IS AT HOME AND RESPECTED HERE. HE HAS CONVINCED HIS SUPERIORS THAT I AM **BLAMELESS** IN THE MURDER OF DR. PETRIE, ARGUING THAT WHILE IT WAS MY HAND WHICH STRUCK THE BLOW... IT WAS FU MANCHU WHO GUIDED MY HAND WITH CUNNING AND DECEIT."



"I HAVE **DISAGREED** WITH SMITH IN THIS MATTER, AND YET HAVE **AGREED** WITH HIM IN **ANOTHER**: THAT MY PURPOSE IS BETTER FULFILLED WHILE **SEARCHING** FOR MY FATHER..."

"...THAN IT WOULD BE WHILE LANGUISHING IN A PRISON OF HIS CONTRIVANCE."



SOME INTRIGUING NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN **PHRENOLOGY**...

PERHAPS WE SHOULD CALIBRATE THE PHANSIGAR'S **SKULL**...

OH, HUSH, RESTON.

YOUR REPORT, DOCTOR...?

THE TRUTH SERUM HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED, SIR.

HE'S READY FOR YOU NOW.



"WE CROSS THE HALL TO THE ROOM WHERE THE CAPTURED PHANSIGAR AWAITS US..."

"HE SITS BATHED IN HARSH LIGHT AND GLISTENING DISCOMFORT..."

"... AND THOUGH HIS EYES ARE CLOUDED BY THE DRUG, HE NEVERTHELESS GLARES AT OUR ENTRANCE..."

MURDERING A POLICEMAN IS A SURPASSINGLY SERIOUS CHARGE...



WAS IT FU MANCHU WHO PUT YOU UP TO IT?



...yes...



WHAT IS HE AFTER?



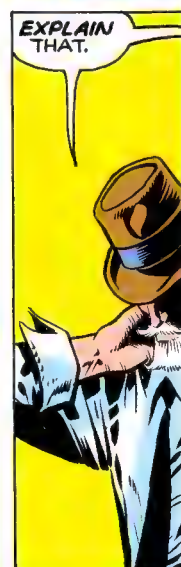
...vengeance...



VENGEANCE FOR WHAT?



...for the theft of life...



EXPLAIN THAT.



ANSWER ME!

"BUT HE DOES NOT."



INCREDIBLE-- EVEN UNDER TRUTH SERUM, HE'S RESISTING. THE LOYALTY FU MANCHU COMMANDS TRANSCENDS BELIEF.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF DR. PETRIE?

...death...



HE IS DEAD...?

... OR WILL HE GO TO HIS DEATH?

"AGAIN HE WILL NOT REPLY."



ALL RIGHT-- WHERE IS FU MANCHU?

...everywhere...

WHERE WILL HE NEXT APPEAR?

...Buckingham...

...Palace...

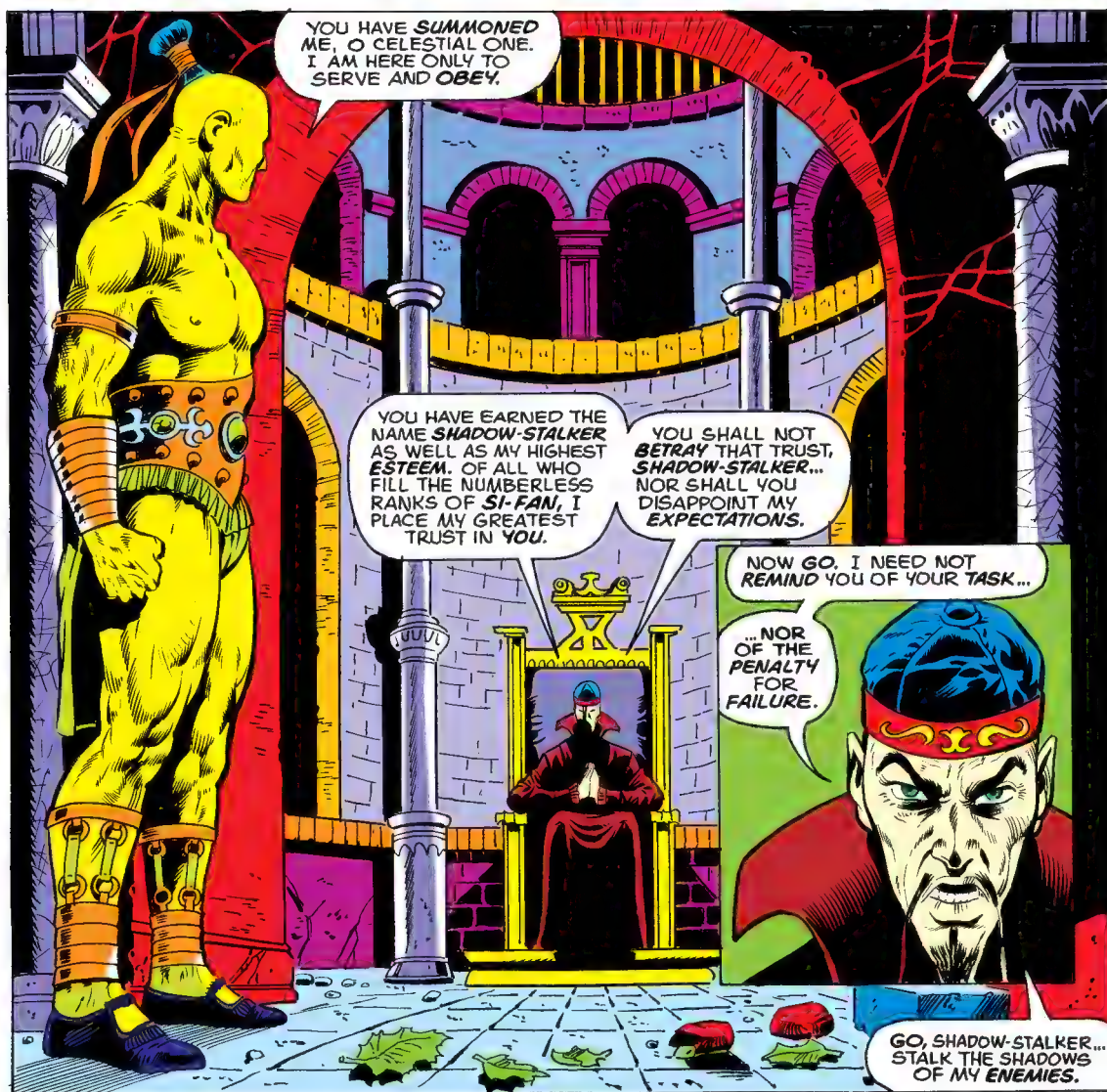


ABSURD.
SHEER
RUBBISH.

OBVIOUSLY, IT'S ANOTHER TRICK.
HE'S BEEN HYPNOTISED TO LIE
EVEN UNDER THE DRUG.
FU MANCHU WANTS TO
LEAD US OFF THE
TRACK.

KEEP YOUR
THEORIES TO
YOURSELF,
RESTON...

... AND SECURE
CLEARANCE FOR
THE FOUR OF US
TO STAY IN
BUCKINGHAM
PALACE.



YOU HAVE SUMMONED
ME, O CELESTIAL ONE.
I AM HERE ONLY TO
SERVE AND OBEY.

YOU HAVE EARNED THE
NAME **SHADOW-STALKER**
AS WELL AS MY HIGHEST
ESTEEM. OF ALL WHO
FILL THE NUMBERLESS
RANKS OF **SI-FAN**, I
PLACE MY GREATEST
TRUST IN YOU.

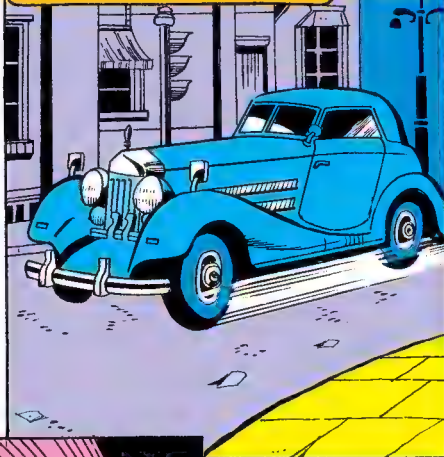
YOU SHALL NOT
BETRAY THAT TRUST,
SHADOW-STALKER...
NOR SHALL YOU
DISAPPOINT MY
EXPECTATIONS.

NOW GO. I NEED NOT
REMINDE YOU OF YOUR TASK...

... NOR
OF THE
PENALTY
FOR
FAILURE.

GO, **SHADOW-STALKER**...
STALK THE SHADOWS
OF MY ENEMIES.

"MIDNIGHT: RESTON HAS OBTAINED THE NECESSARY **CLEARANCE**. AND AS BLACK JACK GUIDES OUR VEHICLE TOWARD **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**...



"...I STUDY THE PASSING **SHADOWS**...

ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE WHAT THE QUEEN'S TASTE IN **DECORATIN'** WAS LIKE.



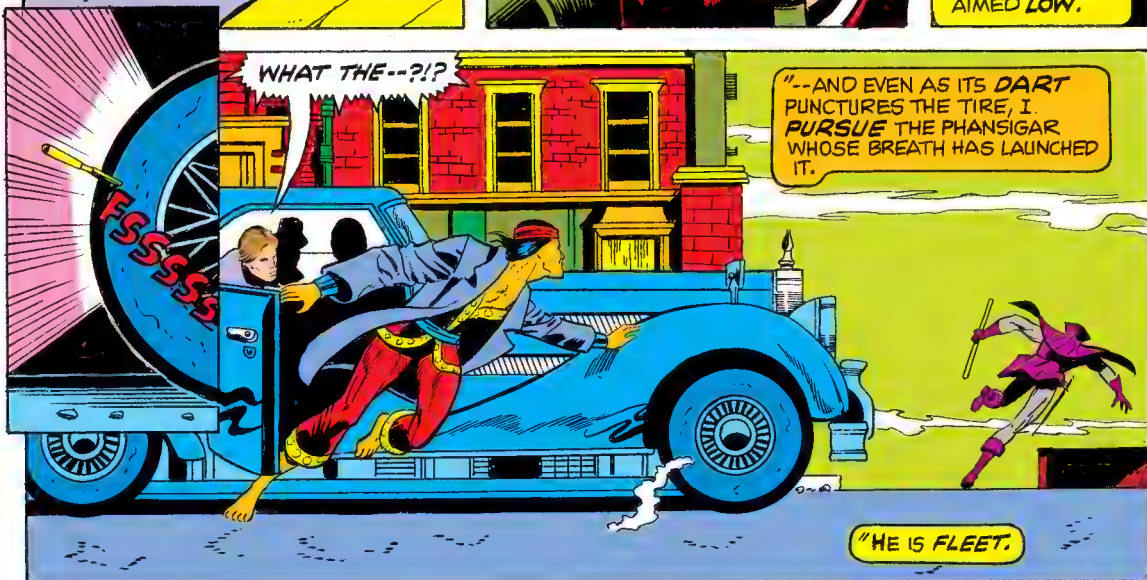
"...AND GLIMPSE A LENGTH OF BAMBOO **PIERCING** ONE OF THOSE SHADOWS.



"A **BLOWGUN**. IT IS AIMED **LOW**.

WHAT THE--?!?

"--AND EVEN AS ITS DART PUNCTURES THE TIRE, I **PURISUE** THE PHANSIGAR WHOSE BREATH HAS LAUNCHED IT.



"HE IS **FLEET**.

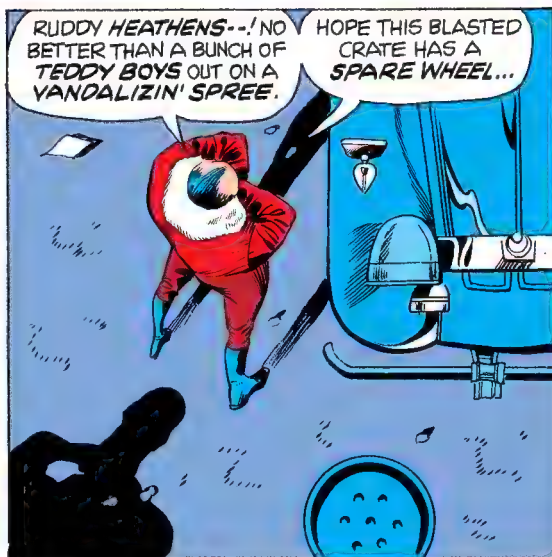
"BUT DOES HE RUN BECAUSE HE HAS SEEN **ME**...OR HAS HIS MISSION BEEN TO MERELY **HALT** THE VEHICLE?

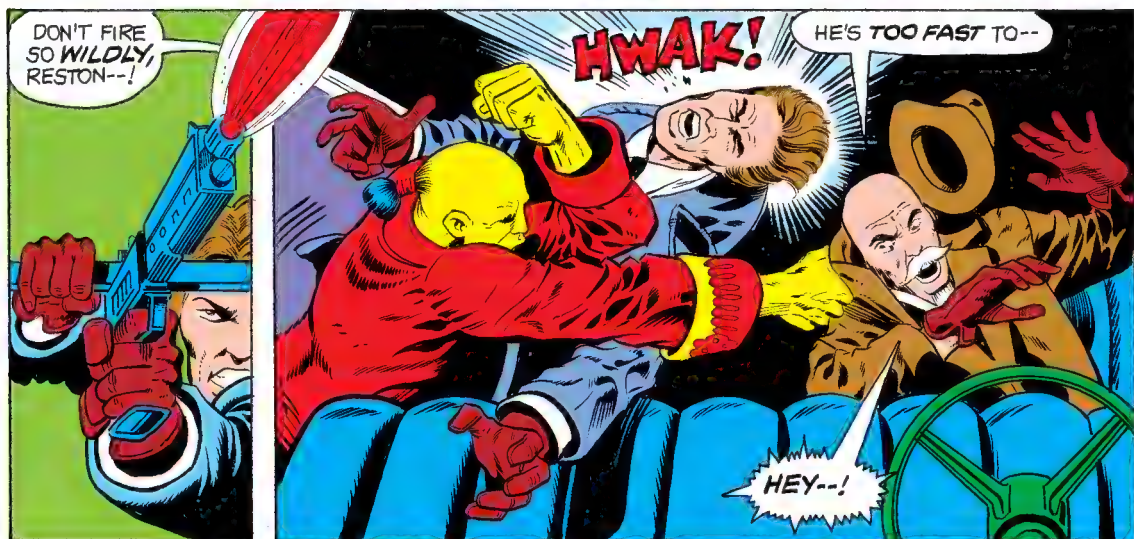


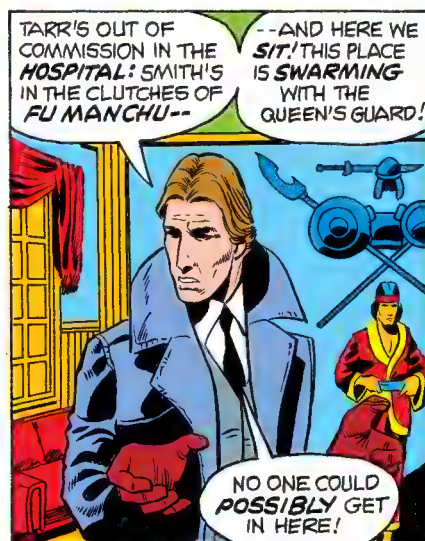
"I WOULD **LEARN** THE ANSWER.

RUDDY **HEATHENS**--! NO BETTER THAN A BUNCH OF **TEDDY BOYS** OUT ON A **VANDALIZIN' SPREE**.

HOPE THIS BLASTED CRATE HAS A **SPARE WHEEL**...

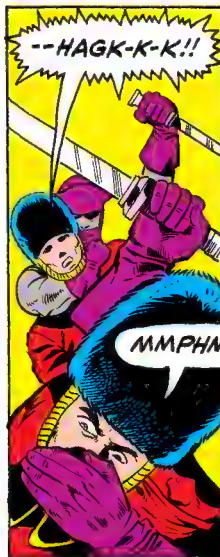








GONE--?!
BUT WHERE
THE DEVIL
COULD THEY--



--HAGK-K-K!!

MMPHM--!



GOOD. THERE
ARE BUT THREE
MORE...



PERHAPS,
RESTON...

...BUT MY FATHER
HAS OFTEN DONE...
THAT WHICH NO
ONE CAN DO.

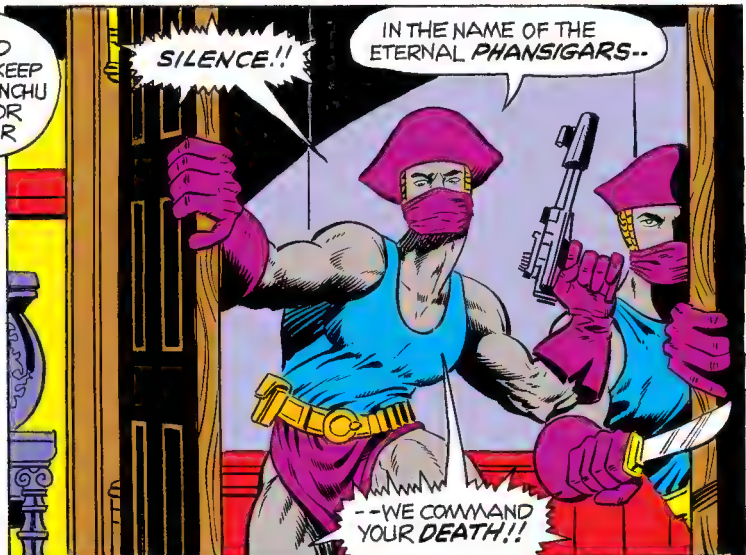


QUICKLY... BEFORE
FU MANCHU GROWS
IMPATIENT.

THE ROOM
LIES DIRECTLY
AHEAD.



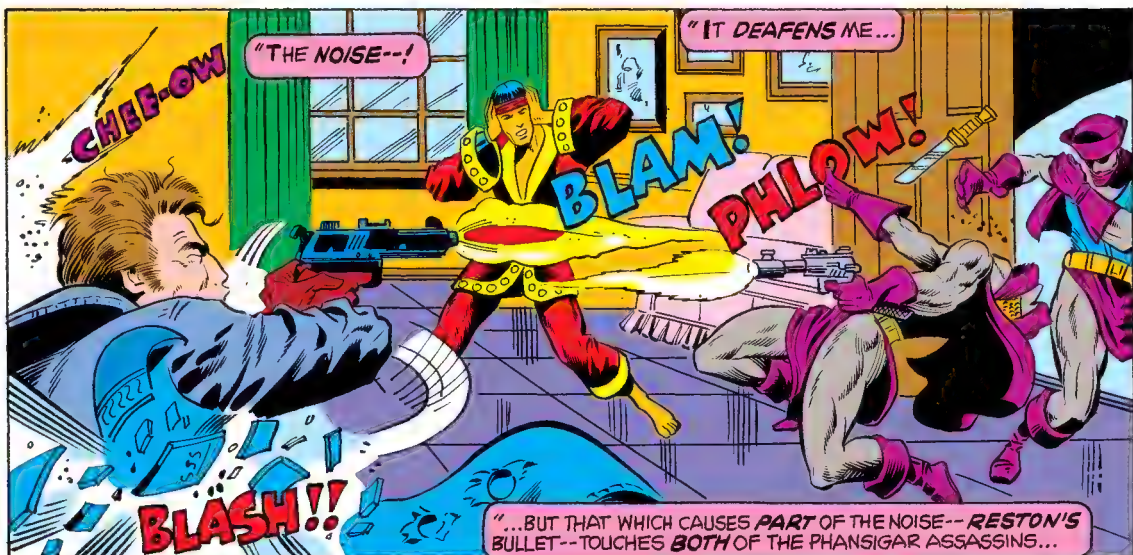
I DON'T CARE, CHI--IT'S STILL
IMPOSSIBLE. BESIDES, I'M CONVINCED
THIS WHOLE BUSINESS IS A RUSE TO KEEP
US OFF THE RIGHT TRACK. FU MANCHU
IS NOWHERE NEAR THIS PLACE--NOR
ARE ANY OF HIS PHANSIGAR, FOR
THAT MAT--



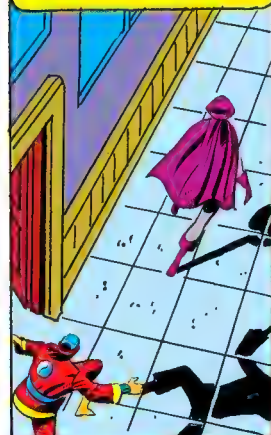
SILENCE!!

IN THE NAME OF THE
ETERNAL PHANSIGARS--

--WE COMMAND
YOUR DEATH!!



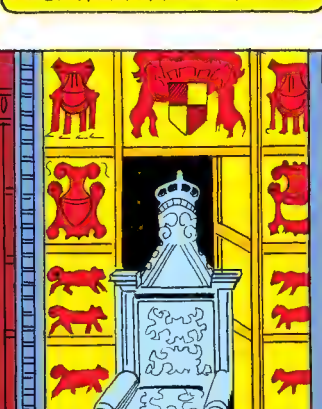
"...AND MY HEAD STILL THROBS AS I CHASE THE ONE WHO HAS MERELY BEEN WOUNDED..."



"...THROUGH LONG CORRIDORS FILLED WITH DEAD GUARDS, AROUND CORNERS..."



"...INTO THE THRONE ROOM. THE PHANSIGAR DISAPPEARS INTO THE DARKNESS OF A DOORWAY BEHIND THE THRONE... AS RESTON APPEARS BEHIND ME..."

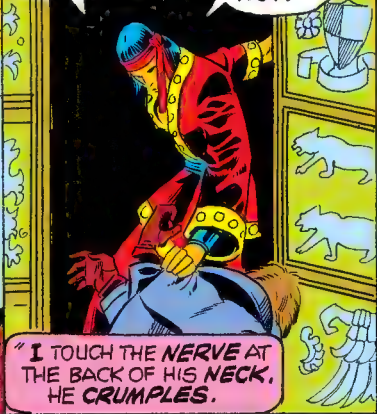


"...AND DOWN BROAD STAIRS--"



NO, RESTON...

...YOU ARE NOT.



"INSIDE THE PASSAGEWAY... A CORRIDOR LEADING THROUGH RUBBLE...AND TOWARD--"



"--AN APERTURE IN THE DARK STONE."

"I PUSH...."

"THE STONE MOVES, RELUCTANTLY GRATING ON ANCIENT HINGES..."



"THE STAIRWAY BEYOND LEADS DOWNWARD TO DUNGEON...AND DIMLY SEEN, FAR MORE THAN DUNGEON."

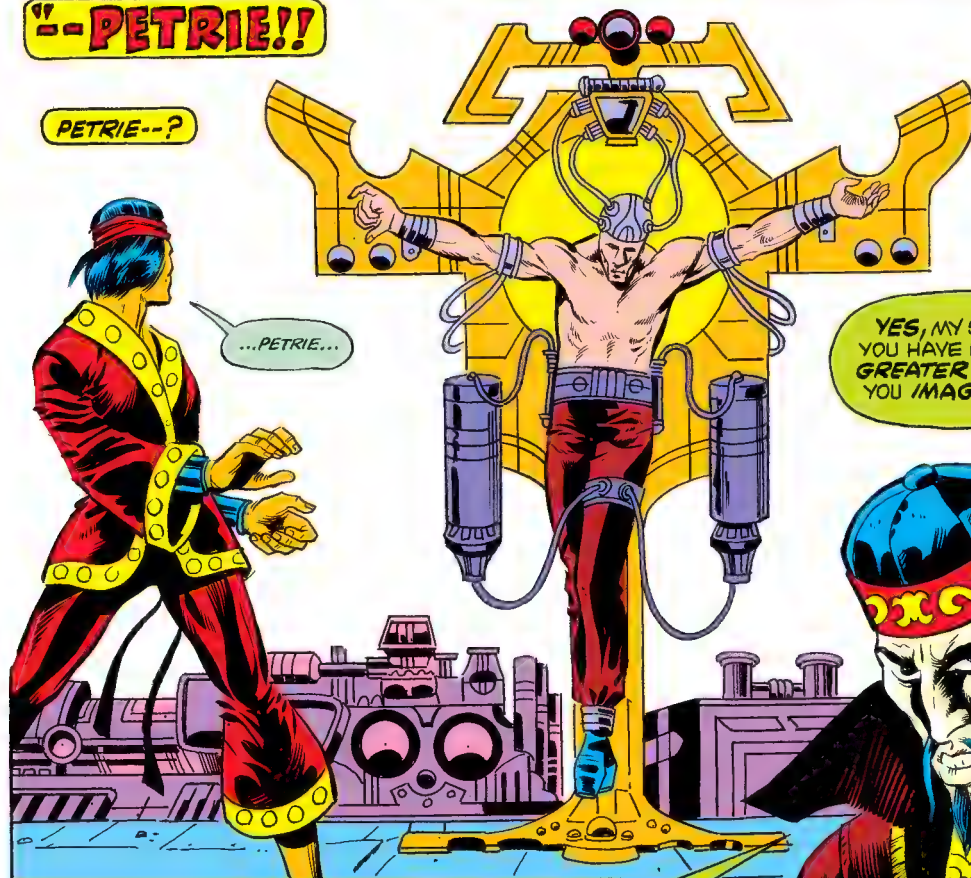


"AHEAD, IN THE GRADUALLY BRIGHTENING LIGHT--"

"--PETRIE!!"

PETRIE--?

...PETRIE...



YES, MY SON. YOU HAVE BEEN A GREATER FOOL THAN YOU IMAGINED.



THAT WHICH YOU MURDERED NEVER LIVED. A CREATION OF MY OWN MAKING, IT WAS DESIGNED TO RESEMBLE PETRIE IN EVERY WAY--SO PERFECTLY THAT IT EVEN FOOLED NAYLAND SMITH, PETRIE'S LIFELONG FRIEND. THERE WAS A TWOFOLD DESTINY FOR MY CREATION--FIRST, TO MASK THE FACT THAT I HAD ABDUCTED THE REAL DR. PETRIE, WHOM YOU SEE BEFORE YOU NOW, FOR REASONS I MYSELF HAVE NOT YET FULLY REALIZED...AND SECONDLY, TO TEST YOUR OBEDIENCE AND TO ENSURE THAT YOU WOULD BE HUNTED AND HOUNDED BY MY ENEMIES--FOREVER CONVINCED THAT THEY WERE EVIL.

BUT I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT SMITH WOULD UNDO THAT WHICH I HAD DEVOTED YOUR ENTIRE CHILDHOOD TO. I DID NOT BELIEVE THAT YOUR CAREFUL INDOCTRINATION COULD BE SO EASILY SHATTERED.

YOUR TEACHINGS WERE SHATTERED BY THEIR **LESSONS**, MY FATHER. THEY WERE DESTROYED BY THE **EVIL** WHICH HID BEHIND THEIR **EVERY WORD**.

BUT THERE IS A **LAST** PIECE OF KNOWLEDGE I WOULD **LEARN** FROM YOU:

WHY DO YOU **CONTINUE** MIS-TREATING THIS MAN? WHY IS HE HARNESSED, EVEN **NOW**, TO THIS MANNER OF **PAIN**?

FOR **VARIOUS** REASONS, SHANG-CHI, ALL AS **DIVERSE** AS THEY ARE **MANIFOLD**. TO LEARN WHAT HE AND SMITH HAVE LEARNED OF ME. TO HOLD HIM **HOSTAGE** FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CORRUPT **GOVERNMENTS** OF THIS WORLD.

TO **EXPERIMENT** UPON. TO EXACT **REVENGE** UPON. TO **REVILE** AS **DEFEATED**. AND TO LOCATE AN ITEM WHICH WAS **STOLEN** FROM ME...

...AN EXTREMELY **PRECIOUS** ITEM...

LISTEN **WELL**, MY FATHER, WHEN I TELL YOU THAT I CURSE THE **BLOOD** WHICH FLOWS THROUGH MY **VEINS**. I CURSE THE FACT THAT IT IS THE SAME WHICH FLOWS THROUGH **YOUR** VEINS.

I CURSE THE FACT THAT I AM **ANGRY**. AND I CURSE THE DAY YOU TAUGHT ME TO **KILL**--

-- FOR MY ANGER IS SUCH THAT I SHALL NOW **EMPLOY** THAT KNOWLEDGE.

I THINK **NOT**, MY SON...

KLAP!

"A SECTION OF THE WALL SLIDES OPEN..."

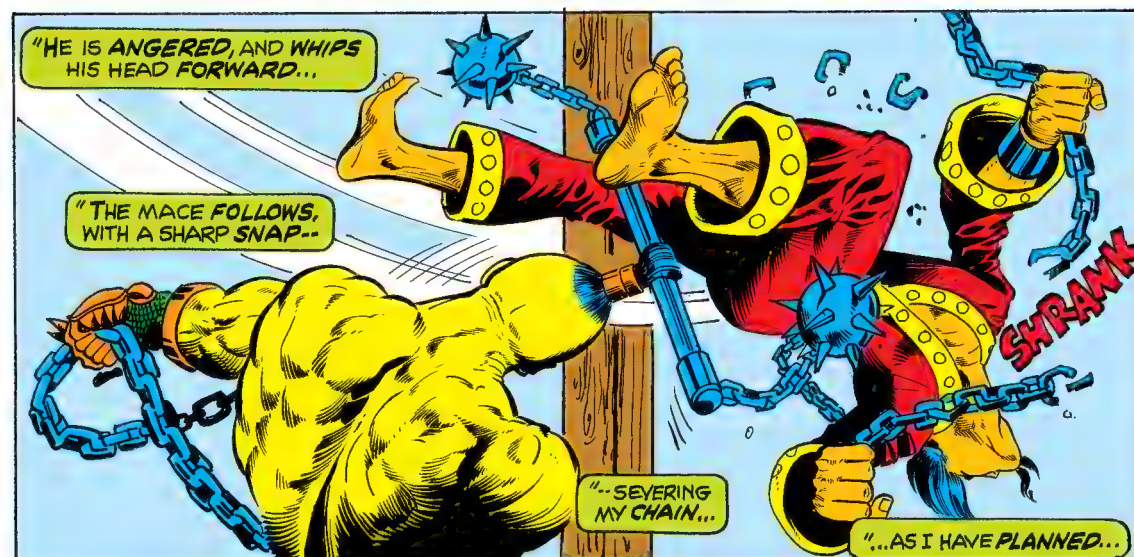
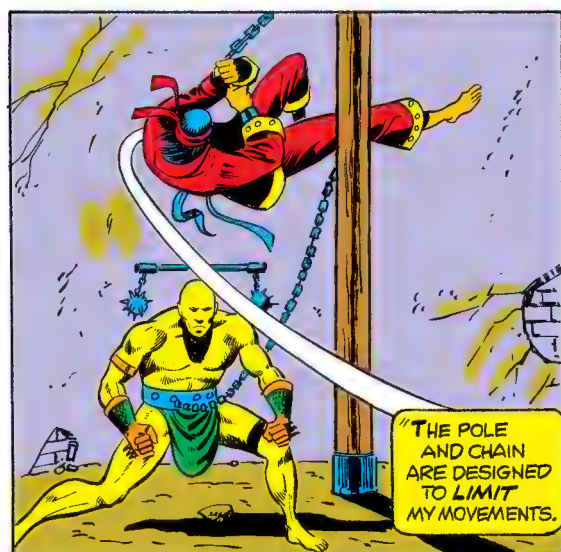
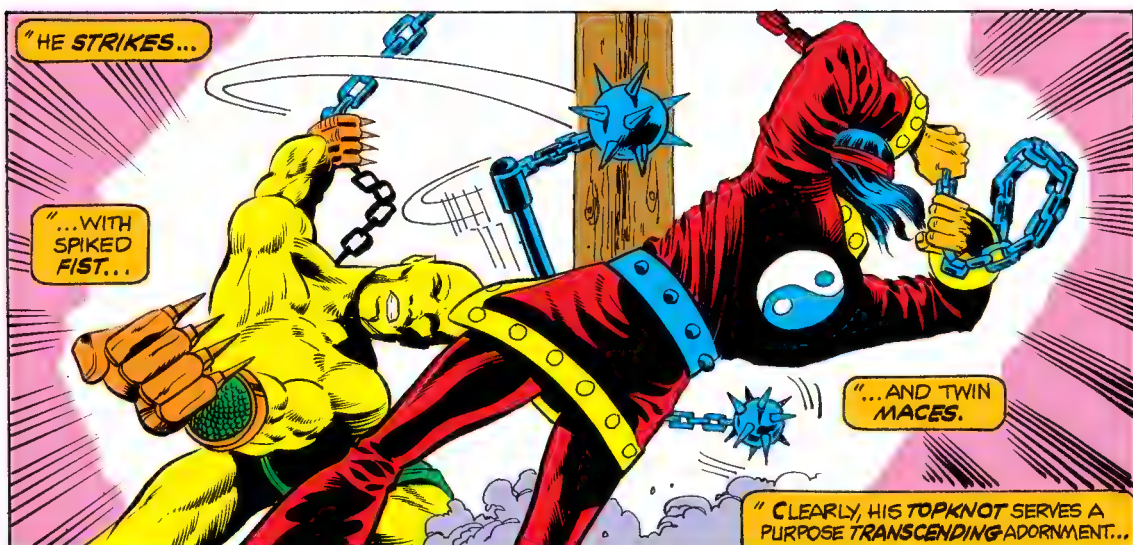
"...REVEALING SMITH...AS TWO PHANSIGARS MOVE FORWARD TO RESTRAIN ME, WHEN RESTRAINT IS NOW **UNNECESSARY**."

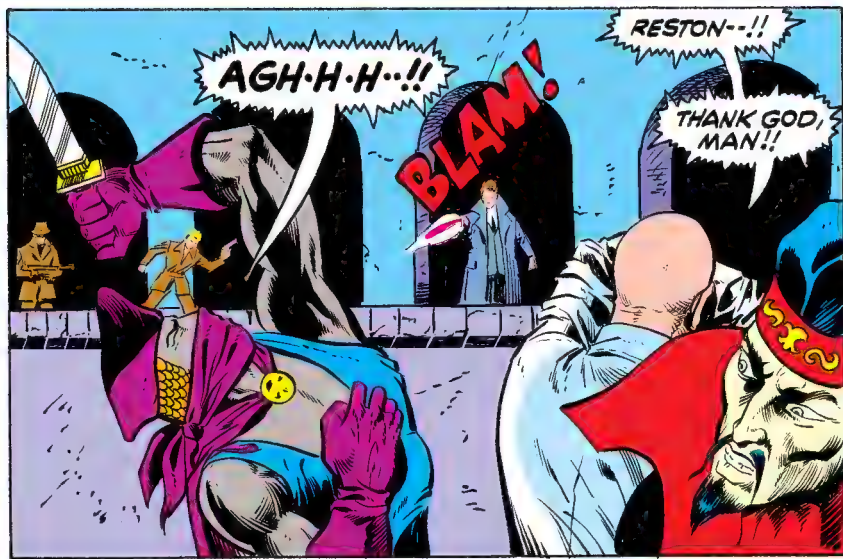
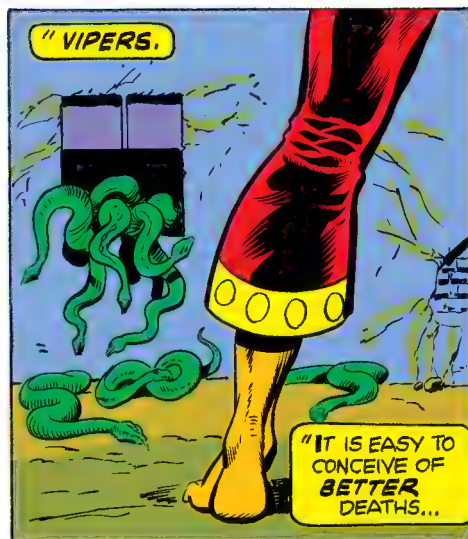
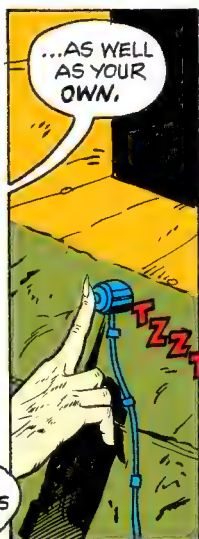
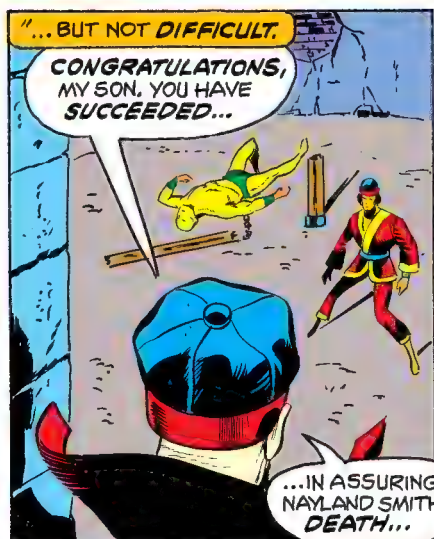
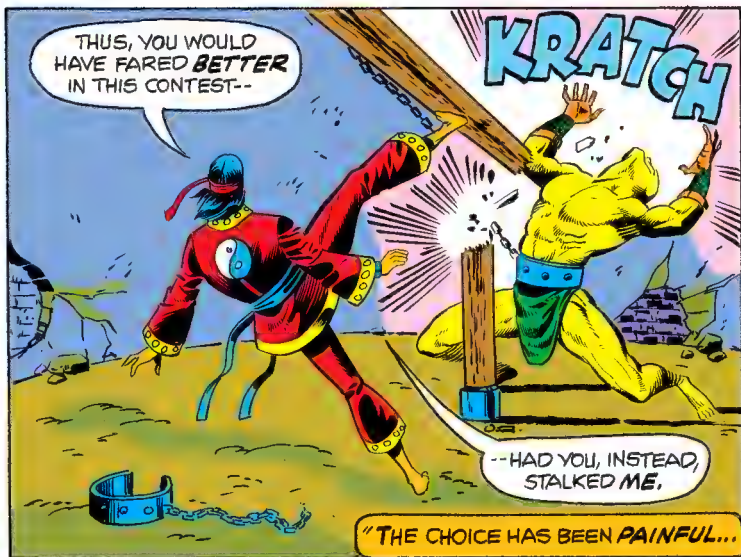
YOU SEE, SHANG-CHI, I HAVE BEEN **UNABLE** TO **LEARN** FROM PETRIE THAT WHICH I **MUST** KNOW. THUS, I HAVE ABDUCTED **SMITH**, AND PLAN TO BRING THE TRUTH FROM HIM.

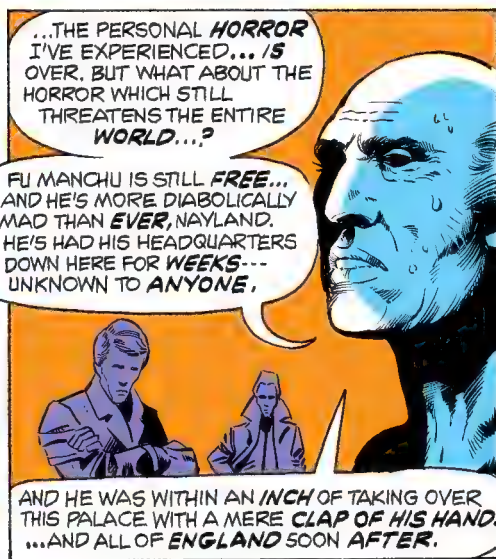
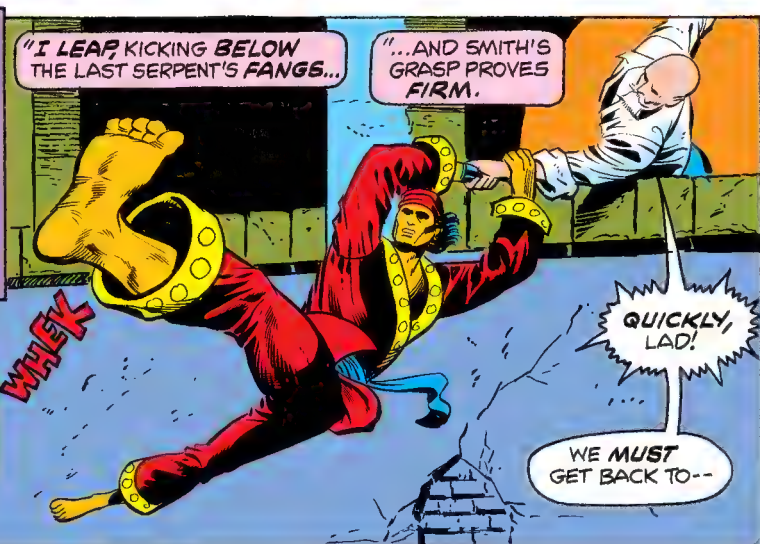
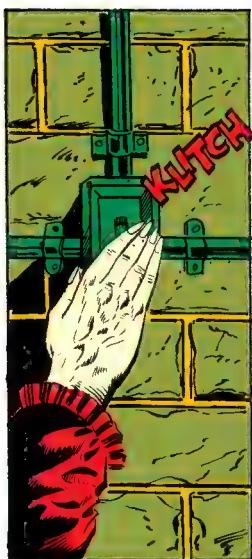
BUT I AM WILLING TO **FOREGO** THAT PLEASURE SHOULD YOU VENTURE A SINGLE THREATENING MOVE AGAINST MY **PERSONAGE**. I DO NOT THINK I NEED **ILLUSTRATE** THAT THE PHANSIGARS' DAGGERS WOULD BE **WET**...BEFORE SUCH A MOVE COULD BE **COMPLETED**.

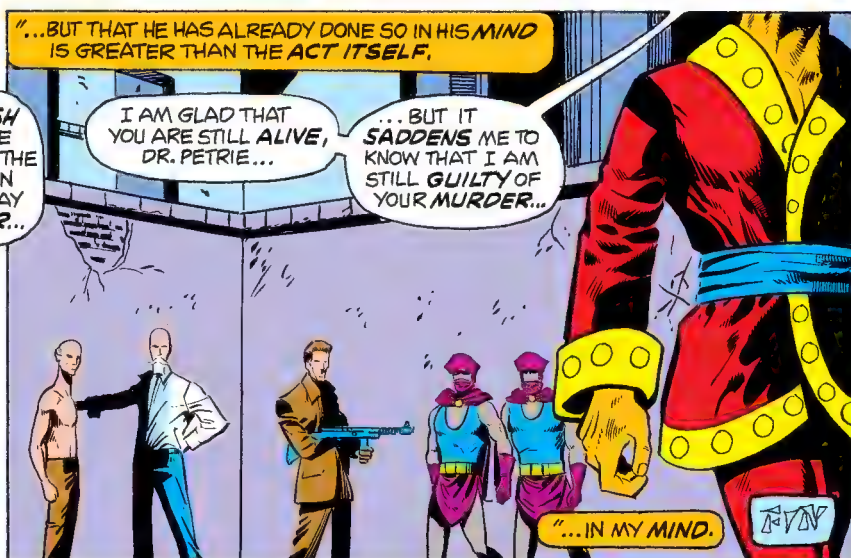
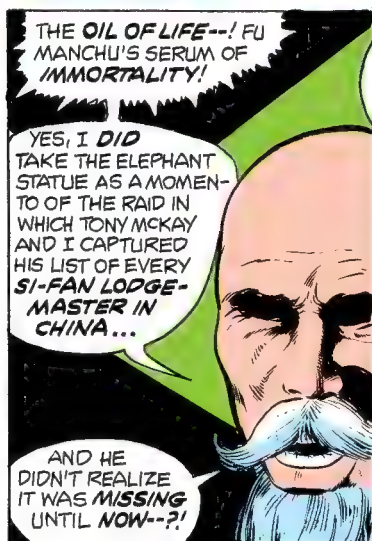
THUS, I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL **COOPERATE** AS MY PHANSIGARS CONDUCT BOTH YOU AND SMITH TO A **DIFFERENT** SECTION OF THIS PALACE'S BASEMENT.











MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



25¢

26
MAR

02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



MARTIAL-ARTS
MADNESS
IN THE
MIDDLE
EAST!

AT LAST!

SHANG-CHI COMES
FACE-TO-FACE WITH...
THE DAUGHTER OF
FU MANCHU!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**... the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

DOUG MOENCH
WRITER

KEITH POLLARD
ARTIST

S. TRAPANI
INKER

C. JETTER
LETTERER

G. ROUSSOS
COLORIST

LEN WEIN
EDITOR

DAUGHTER OF DARKNESS!

"--AND THERE SHE **WAS**, STANDING RIGHT AT THE FOOT OF MY BED AS PROUD AS COULD **BE**. SHE WAS **DARK**--**SULTRY**. I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT SAY SHE WAS **COLDLY SENSUAL**, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I **MEAN**. AND HER **DRESS**--SHEER BLACK **SATIN** WHICH LOOKED AS THOUGH IT HAD BEEN **PAINTED** TO HER BODY..."

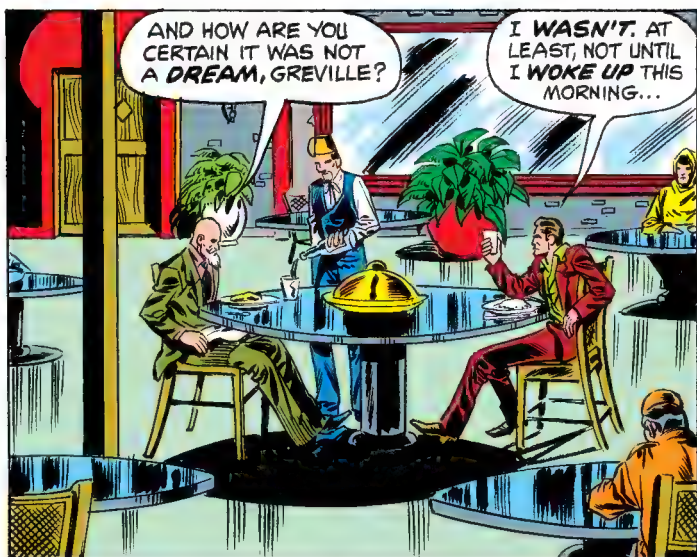
"AND DID SHE **SPEAK** TO YOU?"

"**YES**. HER VOICE WAS **LOW, THROATY**--IT SEEMED TO **PURR**, AND YET THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT SHE WAS CAPABLE OF A **SNARL**. SHE TOLD ME THAT I'D SOON **FIND** WHAT I'VE BEEN **SEARCHING** FOR--THE RUBY EYES OF THE **GOLDEN BEETLE**."

FEATURING SUPPORTING
CHARACTERS CREATED
BY SAX ROHMER.

"AND HER **EYES**,
LORD ROBERT...?
WHAT WERE
THEY LIKE?"

"THE PUREST **JADE GREEN**--AND **PIERCINGLY HYPNOTIC**. THEY ACTUALLY SEEMED TO **GLOW** IN THE DARKNESS OF MY **BED CHAMBER**, AND I DON'T MIND ADMITTING THAT I WAS **FRIGHTENED**, SIR DENIS--FOR DEEP WITHIN HER UNWAVERING STARE I GLIMPSED EVERYTHING WHICH IS AT ONCE **DEPRAVED** AND **IRRESISTABLE**...EVERY DARK SIN AND BRIGHT LUST CAPABLE OF **MAN**."



AND HOW ARE YOU CERTAIN IT WAS NOT A **DREAM**, GREVILLE?

I **WASN'T**. AT LEAST, NOT UNTIL I **WOKE UP** THIS MORNING...



...AND FOUND **THIS** NEXT TO MY **PILLOW**.

THEN IT REALLY **WAS** HER... AFTER ALL THESE **YEARS**...

THAT **EMERALD RING** IS **IDENTICAL** TO THE ONE SHE GAVE TO YOUR FATHER, **SHAN GREVILLE**...



THE ONE **WHO** GAVE TO MY FATHER--?

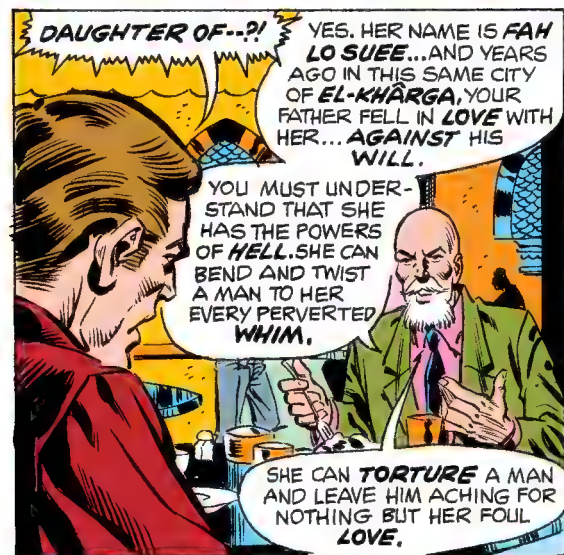
WHO **IS** SHE?



SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE **DEVIL**, LORD ROBERT...



...THE **DAUGHTER** OF **FU MANCHU**.

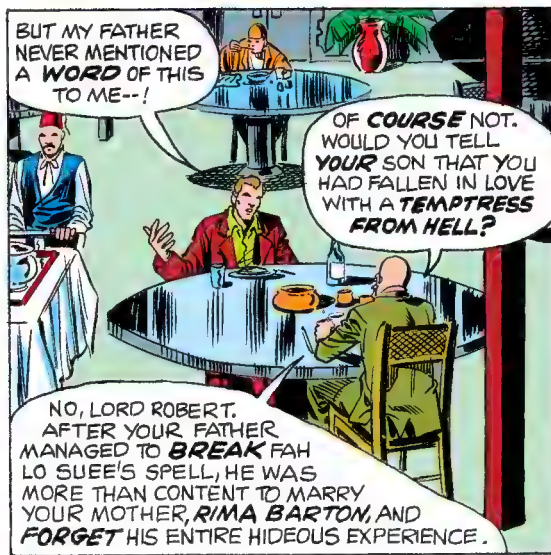


DAUGHTER OF--?!

YES. HER NAME IS **FAH LO SUEE**... AND YEARS AGO IN THIS SAME CITY OF **EL-KHARGA**, YOUR FATHER FELL IN **LOVE** WITH HER... **AGAINST** HIS **WILL**.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT SHE HAS THE POWERS OF **HELL**. SHE CAN BEND AND TWIST A MAN TO HER EVERY PERVERTED **WHIM**.

SHE CAN **TORTURE** A MAN AND LEAVE HIM ACHING FOR NOTHING BUT HER FOUL **LOVE**.



BUT MY FATHER NEVER MENTIONED A **WORD** OF THIS TO ME--!

OF **COURSE** NOT. WOULD YOU TELL **YOUR SON** THAT YOU HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A **TEMPTRESS** FROM **HELL**?

NO, LORD ROBERT. AFTER YOUR FATHER MANAGED TO **BREAK** **FAH LO SUEE'S** SPELL, HE WAS MORE THAN CONTENT TO MARRY YOUR MOTHER, **RIMA BARTON**, AND **FORGET** HIS ENTIRE **HIDEOUS** EXPERIENCE.

HAH! I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE TRYING TO **FRIGHTEN** ME, SIR DENIS. BUT **TELL** ME, WHY IS IT THAT **YOU'VE** COME TO EL-KHARGA?

IT ISN'T **EVERY** DAY THAT I CHANCE TO BUMP INTO ONE OF MY FATHER'S **OLD ACQUAINTANCES** IN A GODFORSAKEN SPECK ON THE GLOBE LIKE **THIS**....

OR PERHAPS YOU'RE ONE OF MY **RIVALS**, SIR DENIS. HAVE YOU, TOO, TAKEN UP **ARCHAEOLOGY**?

NO, LORD ROBERT--I'M AFRAID **MY** BUSINESS HERE IN EGYPT IS CONCERNED MORE WITH THE DANGERS OF THE **PRESENT** THAN THE TREASURES OF **ANTIQUITY**.

YOU SEE, I HAVE REASON TO SUSPECT THAT SOMEWHERE IN EL-KHARGA THERE LURKS AN OLD **FRIEND** OF MINE...
...FU MANCHU.

OH, COME **ON**, SMITH. THIS IS GETTING JUST A TRIFLE TOO **MELODRAMATIC** FOR MY TASTES. FIRST HIS **DAUGHTER**, AND NOW THE OLD BOY **HIMSELF**--!

ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T LOOKING FOR **PINK ELEPHANTS** ON THE **SIDE**?

AND **YOU**, LORD ROBERT--WAS IT A **PINK ELEPHANT** WHO VISITED YOUR BEDROOM LAST NIGHT, AND LEFT YOU A PRESENT OF THAT **EMERALD RING**--?!

"I HAVE WALKED THESE CROWDED STREETS FOR **HOURS** ...FINDING NO **EVIDENCE** OF MY FATHER'S PRESENCE.

"SMITH'S APPOINTED MEETING PLACE IS JUST AHEAD.

POINT WELL TAKEN, SIR DENIS. STILL, I DON'T CARE **WHO** LEFT ME THE RING. IT'S UNDOUBTEDLY QUITE **VALUABLE**.

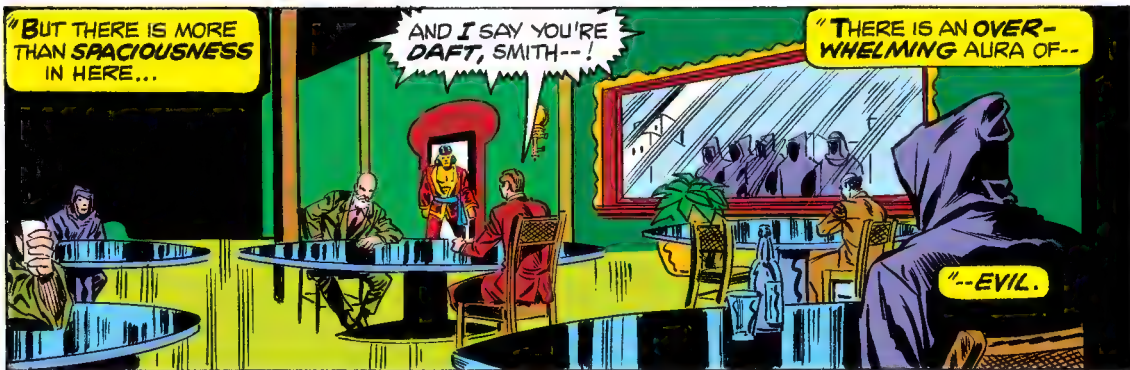
NEVERTHELESS, YOU MUST GET **RID** OF IT--! YOU MUST THROW IT AS FROM YOUR **SIGHT** AS YOU POSSIBLY **CAN**--AND **FORGET** YOU EVER **SAW** IT!!

"I APPROACH THE RESTAURANT'S **ENTRANCE**...

"IT IS A **SIGNAL** FOR THOSE WHO WAIT ACROSS THE **ALLEY**.

"GOOD.

"THE INTERIOR IS **SPACIOUS**, AND WILL ALLOW FREEDOM OF **MOVEMENT**..



"BUT THERE IS MORE THAN **SPACIOUSNESS** IN HERE...

AND I SAY YOU'RE **DAFT, SMITH--!**

"THERE IS AN **OVER-WHELMING AURA OF--**

--EVIL.

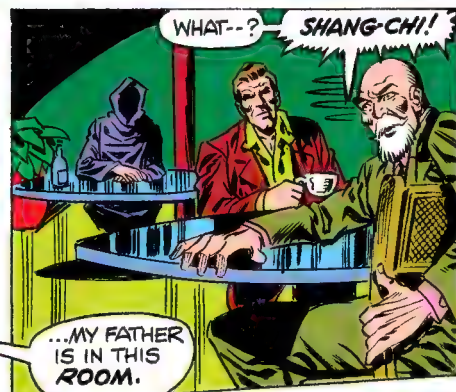


WHAT CAN **POSSIBLY** HAPPEN TO ME IF I CHOOSE TO **KEEP** THE RING?!

YOU'VE GONE **PARANOID, SMITH--!** YOU'VE CHASED THIS **WINDMILL** OF YOURS FOR SO LONG THAT YOU'RE SEEING **FU MANCHU'S GHOST** AROUND EVERY CORNER!

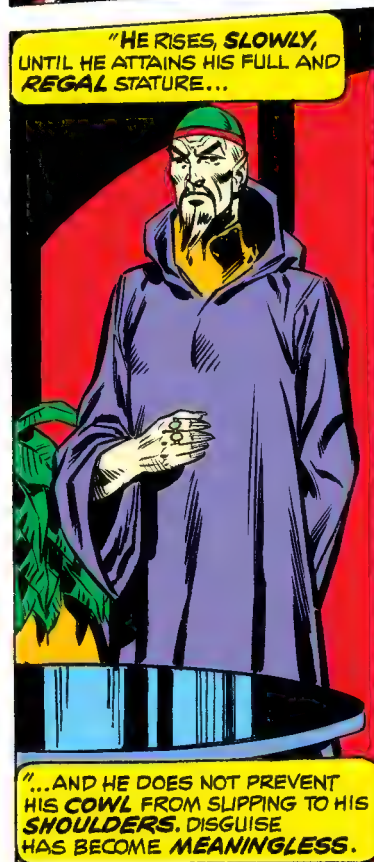


SIR DENIS...



WHAT--? **SHANG-CHI!**

...MY FATHER IS IN THIS ROOM.



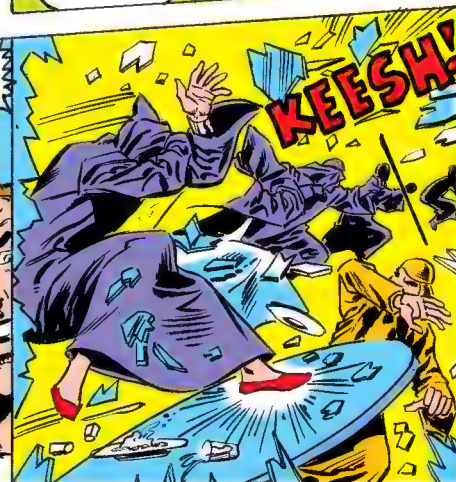
"HE RISES, **SLOWLY**, UNTIL HE ATTAINS HIS FULL AND **REGAL STATURE...**

"...AND HE DOES NOT PREVENT HIS **COWL** FROM SLIPPING TO HIS **SHOULDERS**. **DISGUISE** HAS BECOME **MEANINGLESS.**

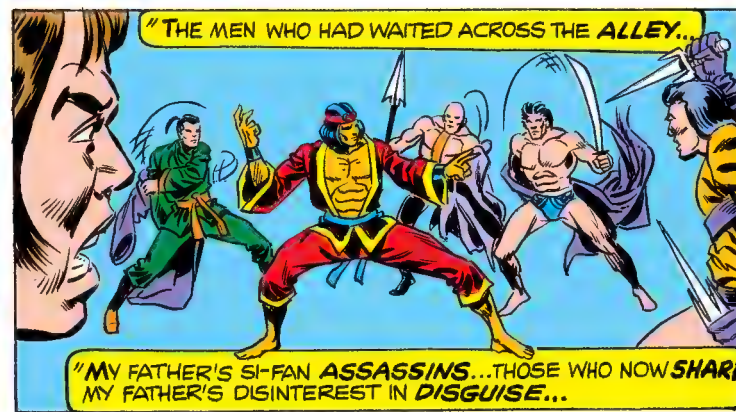


GOOD LORD--! I CAN ALMOST BELIEVE IT'S **HIM.**

HE LOOKS SO--

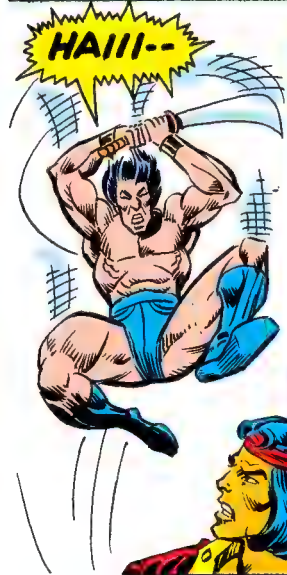
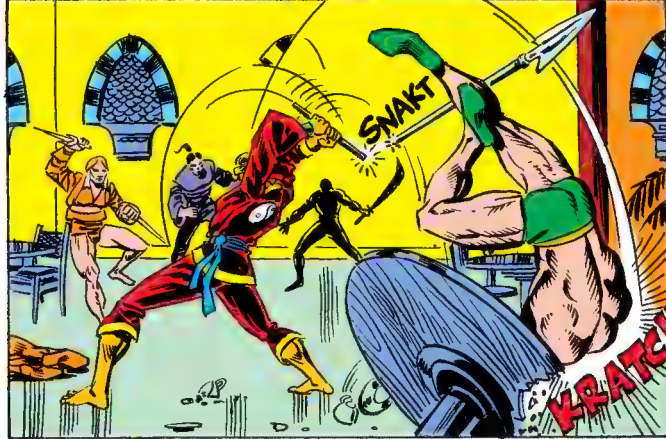
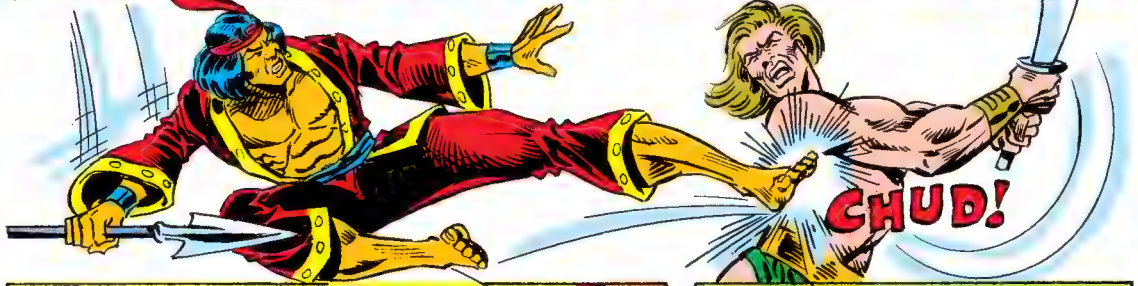
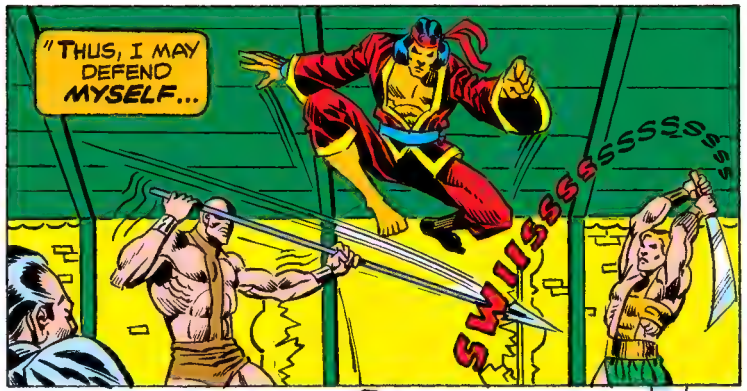
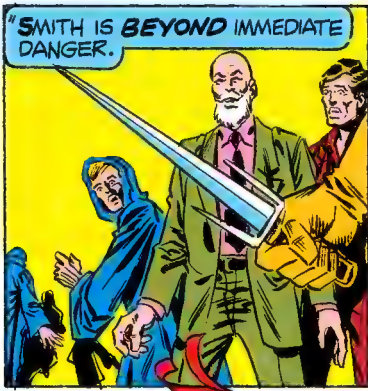


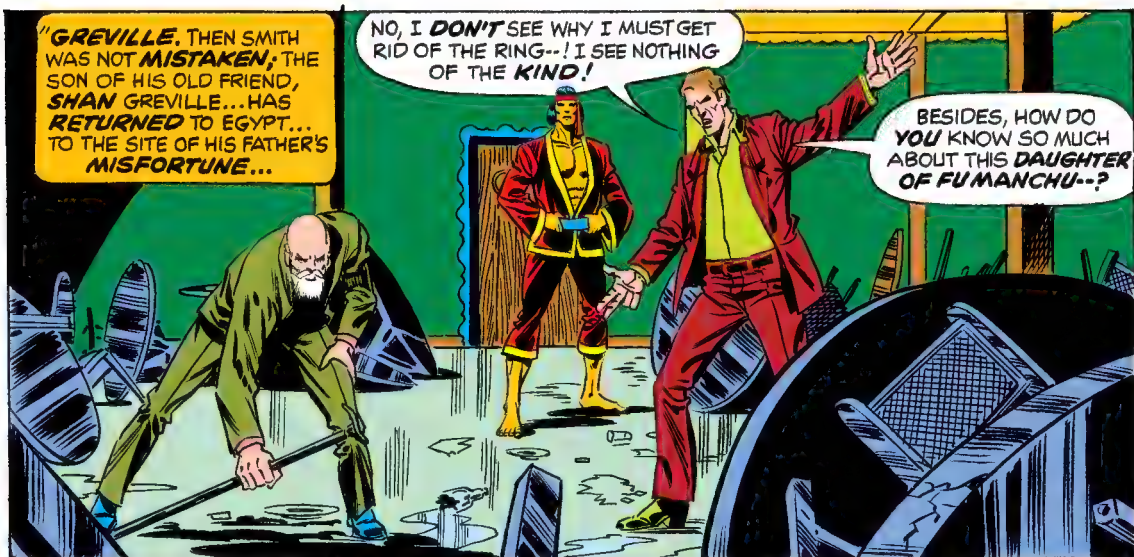
KEESH!



"THE MEN WHO HAD WAITED ACROSS THE **ALLEY...**

"MY FATHER'S **SI-FAN ASSASSINS...** THOSE WHO NOW **SHARE** MY FATHER'S DISINTEREST IN **DISGUISE...**





"GREVILLE, THEN SMITH WAS NOT **MISTAKEN**; THE SON OF HIS OLD FRIEND, **SHAN GREVILLE**... HAS **RETURNED** TO EGYPT... TO THE SITE OF HIS FATHER'S **MISFORTUNE**...

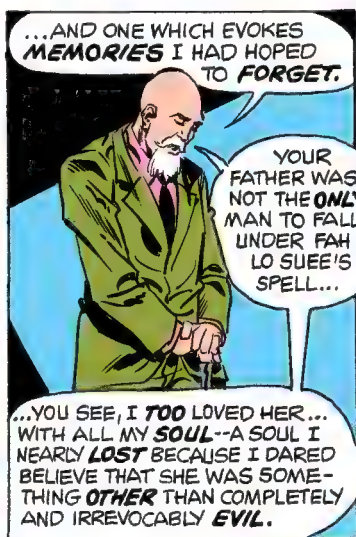
NO, I **DON'T** SEE WHY I MUST GET RID OF THE RING--! I SEE NOTHING OF THE **KIND**!

BESIDES, HOW DO **YOU** KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THIS **DAUGHTER** OF **FU MANCHU**--?



WHAT GIVES **YOU** THE RIGHT TO HURL **ADVICE** IN MY **FACE**??

A GOOD **QUESTION**, SIR ROBERT...



...AND ONE WHICH EVOKES **MEMORIES** I HAD HOPED TO **FORGET**.

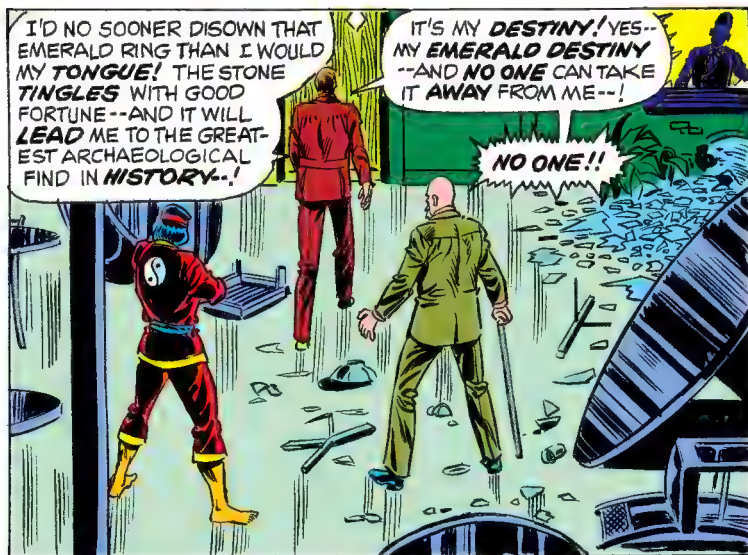
YOUR FATHER WAS NOT THE **ONLY** MAN TO FALL UNDER FAH LO SUEE'S SPELL...

...YOU SEE, I **TOO** LOVED HER... WITH ALL MY **SOUL**--A SOUL I NEARLY **LOST** BECAUSE I DARED BELIEVE THAT SHE WAS SOMETHING **OTHER** THAN COMPLETELY AND IRREVOCABLY **EVIL**.



THAT'S **YOUR** PROBLEM, SMITH! AS FAR AS **I'M** CONCERNED, THE WOMAN WHO VISITED ME THAT NIGHT WAS AN **ANGEL**--!

--AN ANGEL WHO FORETOLD MY DISCOVERY OF THE PHARAOH SETH-AMON'S **BURIAL CRYPT**, AND THE RUBY EYES OF THE **GOLDEN BEETLE**!



I'D NO SOONER DISOWN THAT EMERALD RING THAN I WOULD MY **TONGUE**! THE STONE **TINGLES** WITH GOOD FORTUNE--AND IT WILL **LEAD** ME TO THE GREATEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND IN **HISTORY**--!

IT'S MY **DESTINY**! YES--MY **EMERALD DESTINY**--AND **NO ONE** CAN TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME--!

NO ONE!!

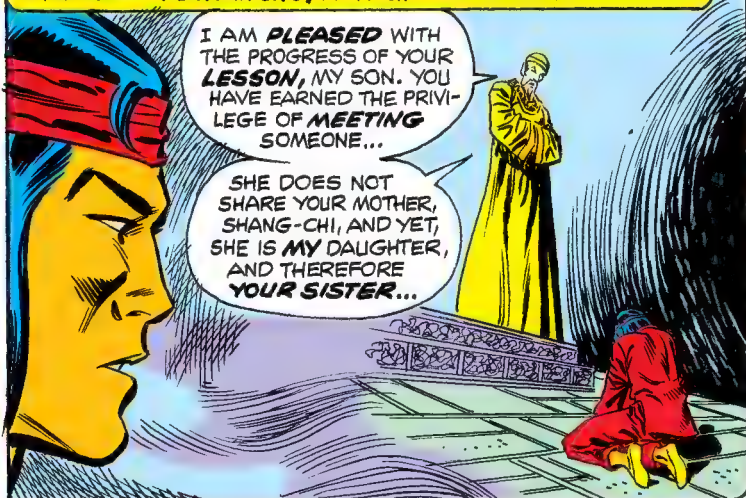


HE IS **LOST**, SHANG-CHI. EVERY LAST SHRED OF **REASON** HAS BEEN TORN FROM HIS **MIND**...

...AND ALL WE MAY HOPE TO DO IS **PROTECT** HIM FROM THE MADNESS WHICH IS **FAH LO SUEE**.

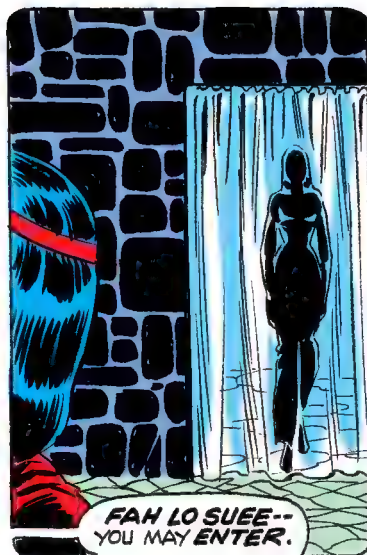
"MY **MIND**... FILLS WITH A MOMENT TEN YEARS **PAST**..."

"...A MOMENT SPENT IN **HONAN, CHINA**...UNDER THE SHELTER AND TUTELAGE OF **FU MANCHU**, HE WHOM I HONORED AS FATHER..."



I AM **PLEASED** WITH THE PROGRESS OF YOUR **LESSON**, MY SON. YOU HAVE EARNED THE PRIVILEGE OF **MEETING** SOMEONE...

SHE DOES NOT SHARE YOUR MOTHER, SHANG-CHI, AND YET, SHE IS **MY DAUGHTER**, AND THEREFORE **YOUR SISTER**...



FAH LO SUEE--
YOU MAY **ENTER**.



THANK YOU, FATHER. BUT **NOW**...IS NOT THE TIME FOR A SISTER TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH HER **BROTHER**...A VERY **PRIVATE** TIME?

VERY WELL, MY DAUGHTER. I WILL **LEAVE** YOU.



YOUR NAME IS VERY **BEAUTIFUL**, SHANG CHI.

THE RISING AND ADVANCING OF A SPIRIT IS AN **ADMIRABLE** GOAL--

BUT **TELL** ME--
WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE MAN WHO **GAVE** YOU THAT NAME...?



OUR **FATHER**? I KNOW ONLY THAT HE IS A **GREAT** MAN--

--AND THAT MANY **EVIL** MEN WISH TO **DESTROY** HIM.



THERE IS **EVIL**, AND THERE IS **EVIL**, LITTLE SPIRIT...

...EVIL PERHAPS IN OUR **FATHER**...AND EVIL PERHAPS IN **ME**.



I MUST **LEAVE** YOU NOW, LITTLE BROTHER. BUT BEFORE YOU **SLAY** A MAN IN OUR FATHER'S **SERVICE**, I URGE YOU TO CONSIDER THAT HE AND I ARE THE **SAME**... AND THAT SOMEDAY, I MAY WISH **HIM** SLAIN.

...AND THAT **ON** THAT DAY, YOU MAY **SHARE** MY WISH.

"I DID NOT **UNDERSTAND** **FAH LO SUEE**'S WORDS--"

"...UNTIL I **HAD** SLAIN A MAN IN MY FATHER'S SERVICE, AND **PROFANED** MY SPIRIT IN THE ACT..."

YES...IT MUST BE...

* SEE SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #15.-- LEN.

I'VE FOUND IT, SHANG-CHI! THIS LIBRARY IS **MARVELOUS**-- THERE'S **NOTHING** TO COMPARE...IN BRITAIN OR THE STATES!--

COME AND LOOK.

YOU **SEE**? THE PHARAOH SETH-AMON'S **GOLDEN BEETLE**-- LITTLE MORE THAN A **LEGEND**, AND HERE IT IS IN THIS **BOOK**... COMPLETE WITH **RUBY EYES**.

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS **MEANS**, LAD. THE BEETLE JUST **MIGHT** EXIST, AFTER ALL.

IT SAYS THAT SETH-AMON BELIEVED THE RUBY EYES CAPABLE OF **HYPNOTISM**. THAT ANYONE WHO GAZED UPON THEM WOULD BECOME MENTALLY **ENSLAVED** TO HIS EVERY WILL...

AND IT'S NO **WONDER** THAT FAH LO SUEE **WANTS** THE BEETLE...

...IT'S THE **KEY** TO THE ONE SUCCESS WHICH HAS REPEATEDLY **ELUDED** HER--HER **ONE CHANCE** TO RENDER FU MANCHU **HELPLESS**...**OBEIDENT** TO HER MOST SUBTLE **WHIM**.

AND **NEITHER** IS IT SURPRISING THAT FU MANCHU **HIMSELF** IS HERE IN EL-KHARGA--IT'S HIS LAST CHANCE TO **STOP** FAH LO SUEE!

COME, SHANG-CHI. GREVILLE IS AN UNWITTING **PAWN** IN THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN **FATHER** AND **DAUGHTER**. WE MUST GO TO HIS ROOM BEFORE THAT **PAWN** IS **SACRIFICED**..

"AT GREVILLE'S **LODGING**, I AM NOT SURPRISED LEARN **THAT**--"

IT'S **LOCKED**, SHANG-CHI...

YOU'LL HAVE TO--

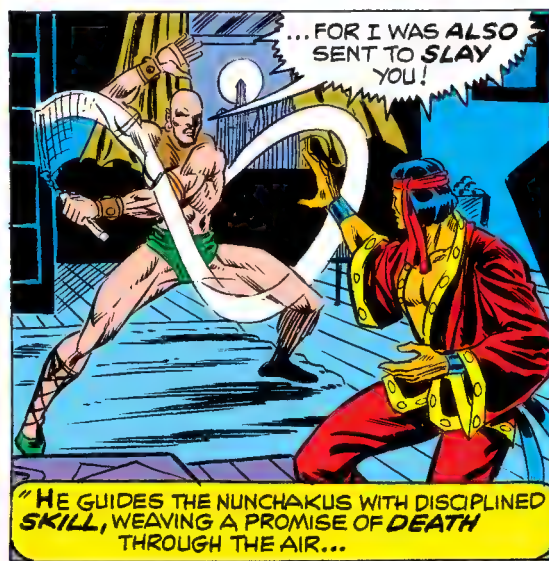
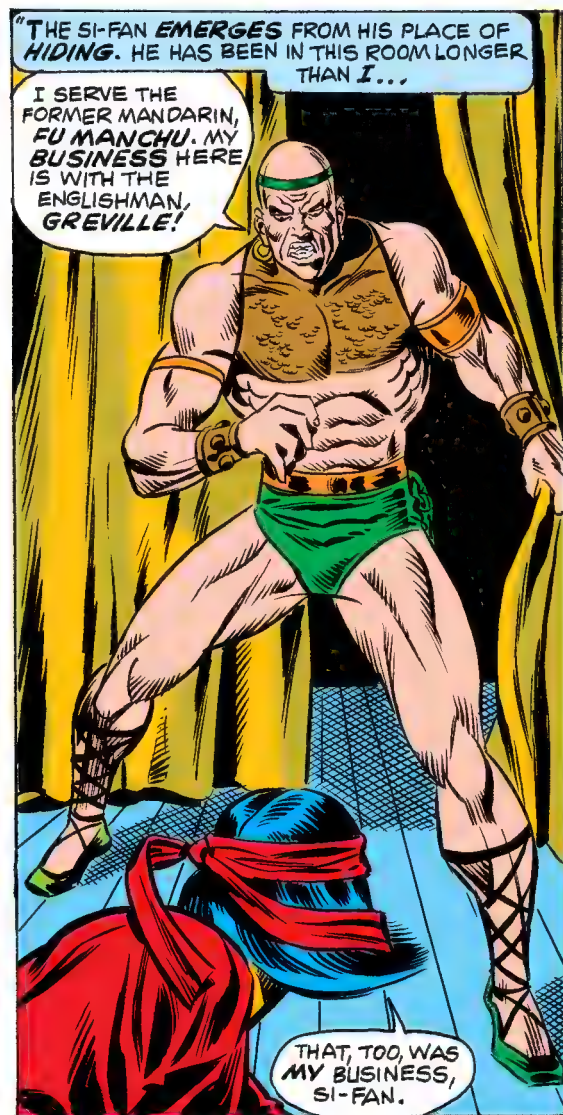
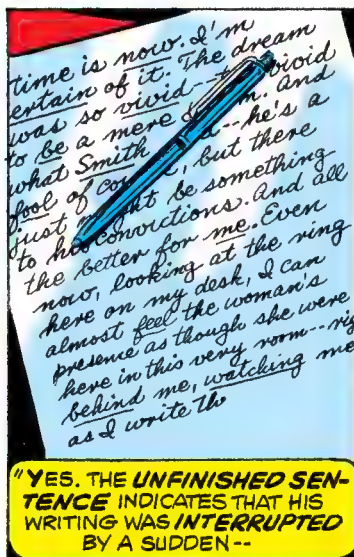
EH?!?

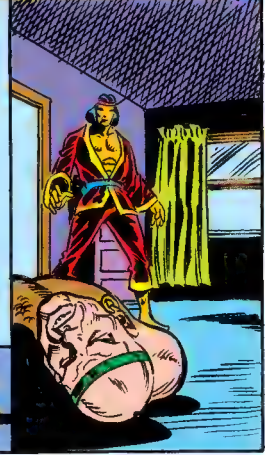
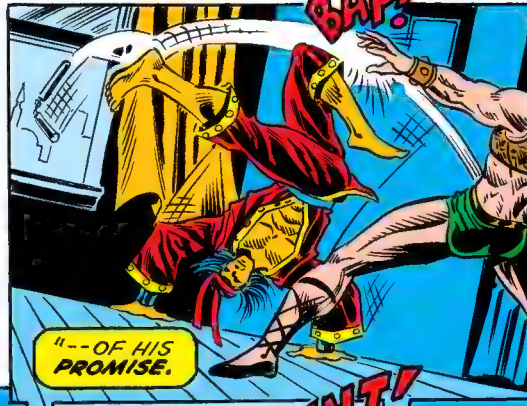
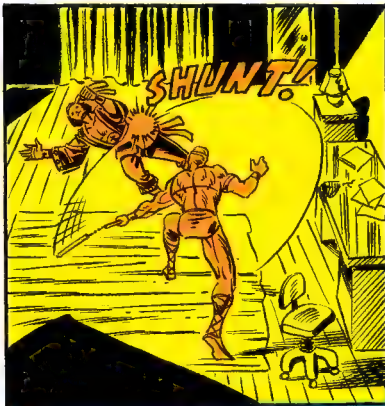
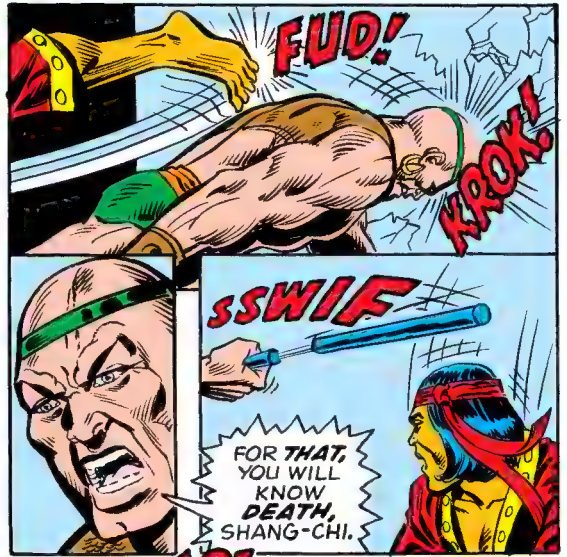
WHERE THE **DEVIL** ARE YOU, LAD?!

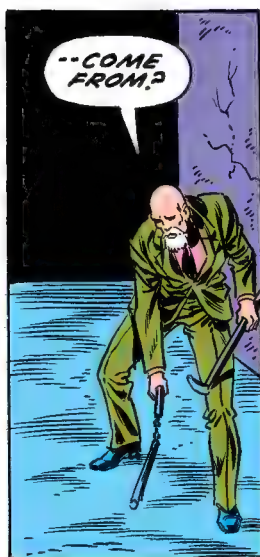
"GREVILLE'S ROOM..."

"**DARK**..."

"...AND **SILENT**..."







--COME FROM?

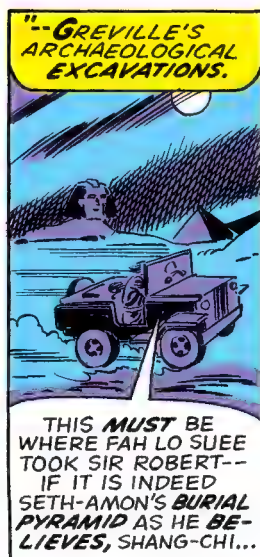


I DID NOT FIND THE ENGLISHMAN, SIR DENIS...

SHANG-CHI--!

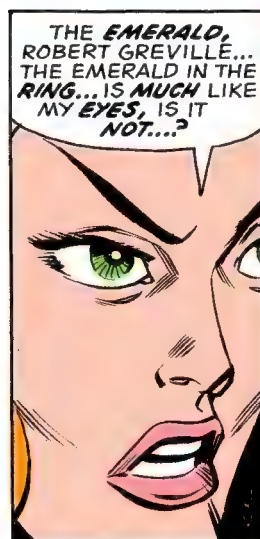


...BUT I DID FIND A MAP TO THE LOCATION OF--



--GREVILLE'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS.

THIS **MUST** BE WHERE FAH LO SUEE TOOK SIR ROBERT-- IF IT IS INDEED SETH-AMON'S **BURIAL PYRAMID** AS HE **BELIEVES**, SHANG-CHI...



THE **EMERALD**, ROBERT GREVILLE... THE **EMERALD** IN THE **RING**... IS **MUCH** LIKE MY EYES, IS IT **NOT**...?



YOU BROUGHT ME TO THIS PYRAMID BECAUSE THE **EMERALD** WANTED YOU TO DO SO... BECAUSE MY EYES **COMMANDED** YOU TO DO SO...MY EYES, REACHING **OUT** TO YOU FROM THE **GREEN DEPTHS** OF THE **EMERALD**...

YES...THE **EMERALD** ...WANTED ME TO... BRING YOU... HERE...



AND NOW THE **EMERALD** WANTS YOU TO LEAD ME TO THE PHARAOH'S **BURIAL CHAMBER**...MY EYES **COMMAND** YOU TO LEAD ME THERE...



...TO THE **GOLDEN BEETLE**, ROBERT GREVILLE...THE **ANCIENT TALISMAN** OF **POWER**...

YES...DOWN THIS CORRIDOR... TO THE **BEETLE**...



"THE PYRAMID AWAITS US, PALE UNDER THE DESERT MOON..."

THERE, SHANG-CHI--A FRESHLY EXCAVATED **PIT** AT THE BASE OF THE STRUCTURE...



...THE ENTRANCE TO THE **CRYPT** OF THE PHARAOH **SETH-AMON**--!

"WE ENTER."



THE CHAMBER...
AHEAD... IS THE
PHARAOH'S...
TOMB...

VERY GOOD,
ROBERT
GREVILLE...

...MY EYES
SHALL BE...
KIND...TO
YOU...

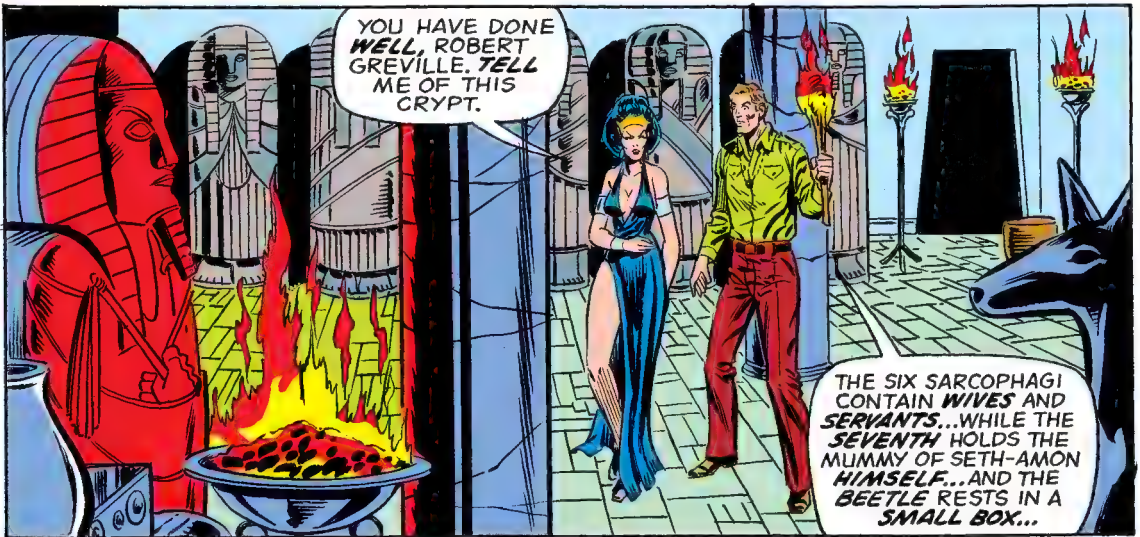


"SOFT VOICES, ECHOING THROUGH HOLLOW
DISTANCE..."

NO,
SIR DENIS.

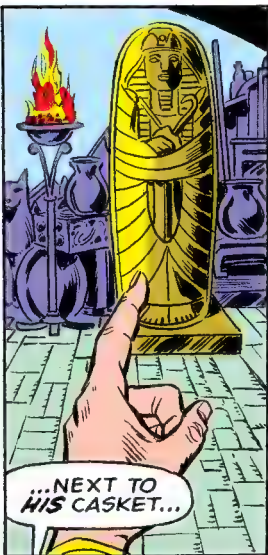
EH--?

WE MUST
PROCEED
DOWN *THIS*
CORRIDOR,
INSTEAD.



YOU HAVE DONE
WELL, ROBERT
GREVILLE. TELL
ME OF THIS
CRYPT.

THE SIX SARCOPHAGI
CONTAIN *WIVES* AND
SERVANTS...WHILE THE
SEVENTH HOLDS THE
MUMMY OF SETH-AMON
HIMSELF...AND THE
BEETLE RESTS IN A
SMALL BOX...



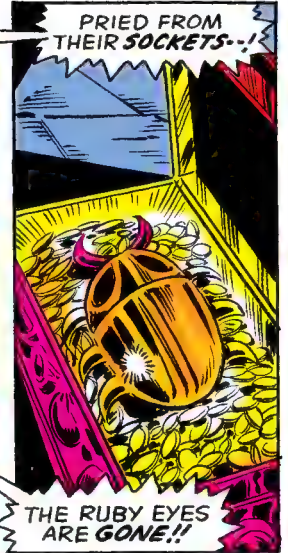
...NEXT TO
HIS CASKET...



IN *HERE*, THEN, LIES
MY *DESTINY*. IN
HERE I WILL FIND--



THE EYES--!!



PRIED FROM
THEIR *SOCKETS*--!!

THE RUBY EYES
ARE *GONE*!!



THE SI-FAN
ARE
READY?

YES, O'
CELESTIAL
ONE.

**WHUP
WHUP
WHUP**

BUT **WHO?**
WHO COULD
HAVE **TAKEN**
THEM--?



YOU, ROBERT
GREVILLE--**YOU**
HAVE STOLEN
THE BEETLE'S
RUBY EYES...

N-NO--! I...
I **SWEAR** TO
YOU I
DIDN'T--!



MY WORKERS EXCAVATED THIS
CRYPT ONLY **YESTERDAY--!** I...
I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD TIME TO
FULLY **EXAMINE** THIS
CHAMBER--!

I **DIDN'T**
KNOW THE
EYES WERE
GONE! BUT THEY
MUST BE HERE--
AND I'LL **FIND** THEM
FOR YOU--I **PROMISE**
YOU I WILL--!



THEN YOU
WILL BEGIN
SEARCHING
NOW, OR
YOU WILL
FEEL--

THEN IT'S **TRUE**,
DAUGHTER OF HELL...
YOU STILL **LIVE**...



...ETERNALLY
BEAUTIFUL...
ETERNALLY
EVIL...

WELCOME,
NAYLAND
SMITH...

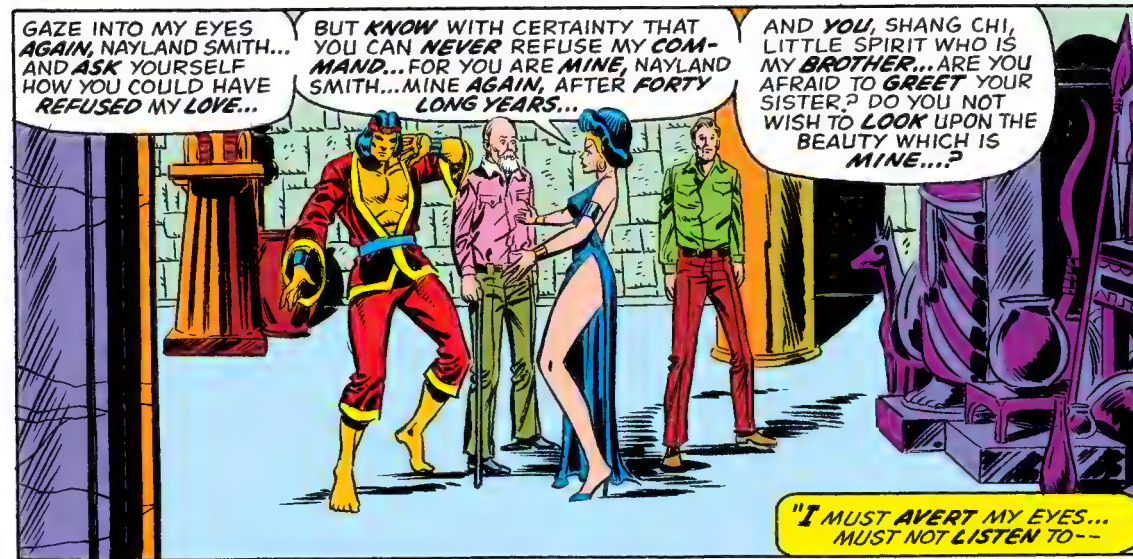


IT HAS BEEN
A **LONG** TIME
SINCE LAST I
SAW YOU...



YOU'RE STILL...SO **YOUNG**... NOT
A DAY OLDER THAN THE LAST
TIME I GAZED INTO YOUR
HELLISH **EYES**...YOUR BEAUTIFUL
EMERALD EYES...STILL
ENCHANTING
...PROMISING
PEACE...AND
PLEASURE
BEYOND--

SMITH--! YOU
MUST NOT--



GAZE INTO MY EYES
AGAIN, NAYLAND SMITH...
AND **ASK** YOURSELF
HOW YOU COULD HAVE
REFUSED MY LOVE...

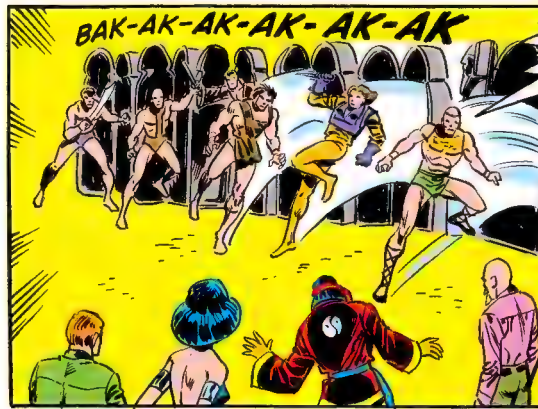
BUT **KNOW** WITH CERTAINTY THAT
YOU CAN **NEVER** REFUSE MY **COM-**
MAND...FOR YOU ARE **MINE**, NAYLAND
SMITH...**MINE** AGAIN, AFTER **FORTY**
LONG YEARS...

AND **YOU**, SHANG CHI,
LITTLE SPIRIT WHO IS
MY **BROTHER**...ARE YOU
AFRAID TO **GREET** YOUR
SISTER? DO YOU NOT
WISH TO **LOOK** UPON THE
BEAUTY WHICH IS
MINE...?

**"I MUST AVERT MY EYES...
MUST NOT LISTEN TO--"**



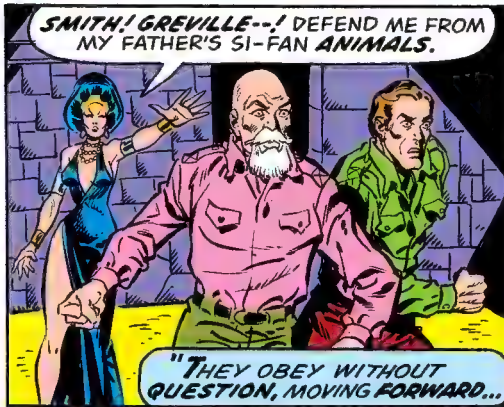
"--CREAKING....?"



BAK-AK-AK-AK-AK-AK

**DEATH TO THE
ENEMIES OF
FU MANCHU!!**

"THE SARCOPHAGI--!
ONCE THE RECEPTA-
CLES OF DEATH, THEY
NOW SPAWN MEN OF
VIVID LIFE...AND YET,
MEN WHOSE NATURE
IS CLOSELY ALIGNED
WITH DEATH.



**SMITH! GREVILLE--! DEFEND ME FROM
MY FATHER'S SI-FAN ANIMALS.**

"THEY OBEY WITHOUT
QUESTION, MOVING FORWARD..."

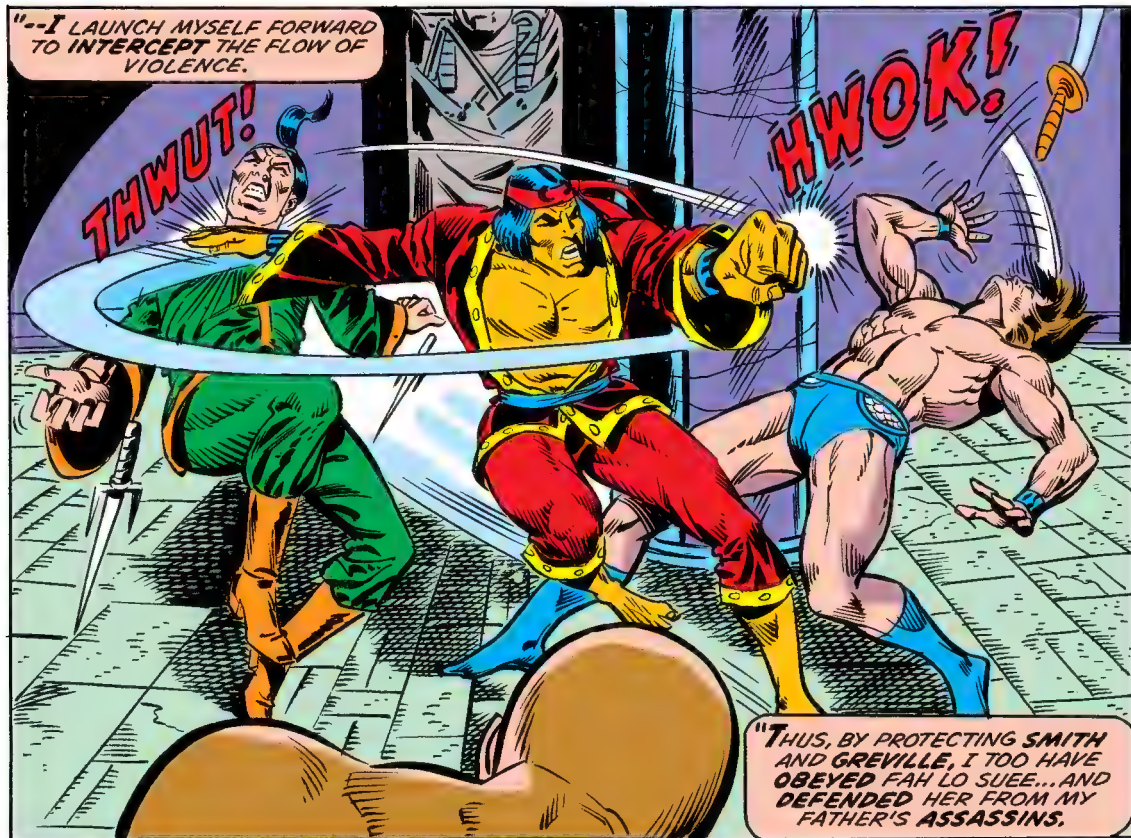


"...TO STAND LIKE STRAW
BEFORE THE HURRICANE."



"MY SISTER HAS
COMMANDED THEM TO
SURRENDER THEIR
LIVES..."

"UNLESS--"



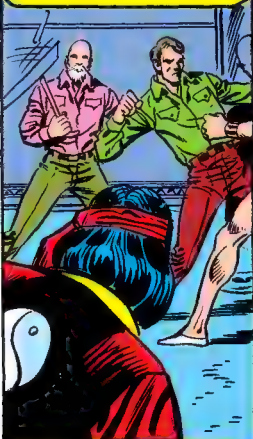
"--I LAUNCH MYSELF FORWARD
TO INTERCEPT THE FLOW OF
VIOLENCE.

THWUT!

HWOK!

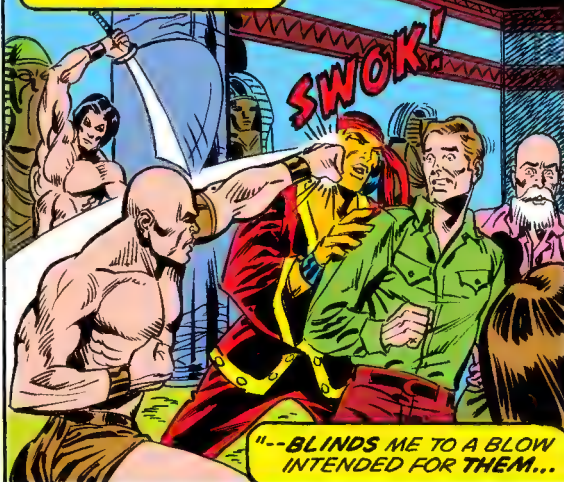
"THUS, BY PROTECTING SMITH
AND GREVILLE, I TOO HAVE
OBEYED FAH LO SUEE...AND
DEFENDED HER FROM MY
FATHER'S ASSASSINS.

"BUT THEY ARE STILL ENTRANCED--



--AND THEREFORE IN GREAT PERIL.

"MY CONCERN FOR PROPELLING THEM FROM DANGER--

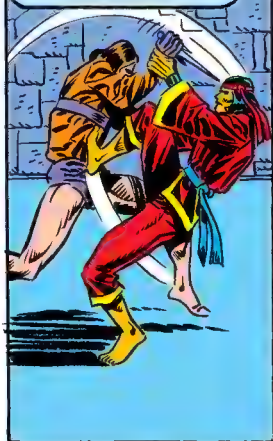


--BLINDS ME TO A BLOW INTENDED FOR THEM...

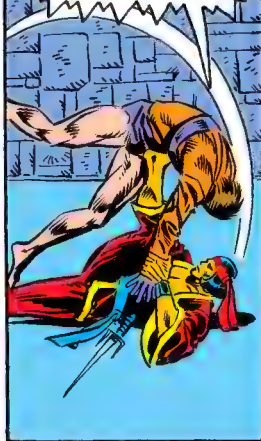
"ANOTHER...



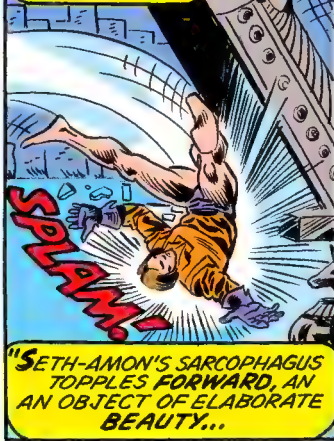
"...AND THE THIRD BLOW WOULD DRAW BLOOD IN ITS SILENCE--



HAAHIEEE!!

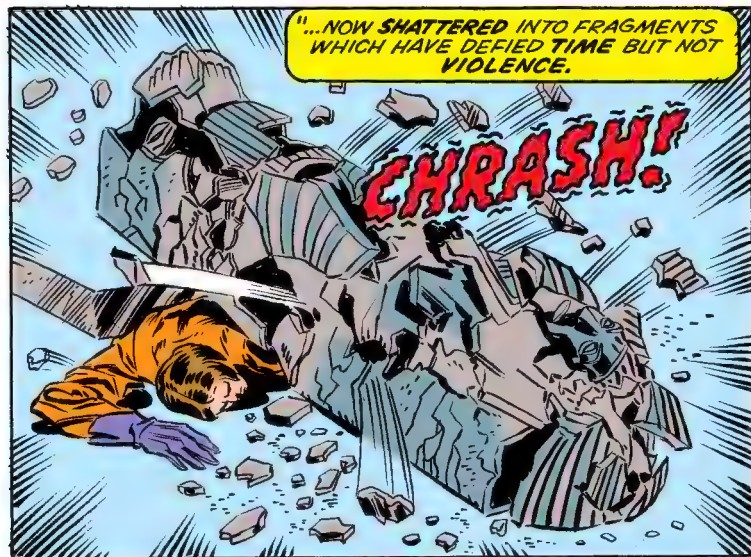


"--WERE IT TO REACH ITS PROPER TARGET.

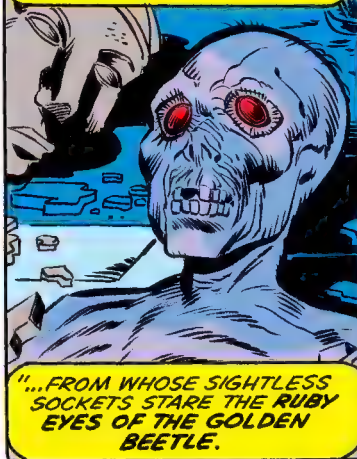


"SETH-AMON'S SARCOPHAGUS TOPPLES FORWARD, AN OBJECT OF ELABORATE BEAUTY...

"...NOW SHATTERED INTO FRAGMENTS WHICH HAVE DEFIED TIME BUT NOT VIOLENCE.

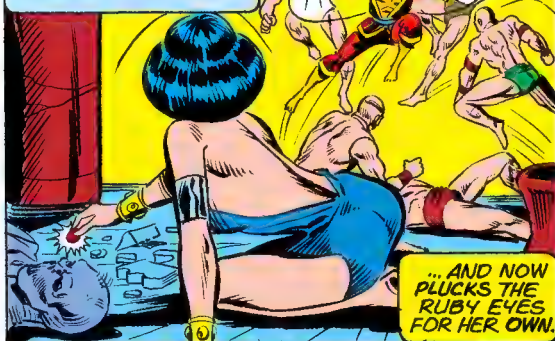


"SETH-AMON'S BODY SPILLS TO THE STONE FLOOR, A FORM OF ANCIENT DEATH AND DESSICATION...



"...FROM WHOSE SIGHTLESS SOCKETS STARE THE RUBY EYES OF THE GOLDEN BEETLE.

"MY SISTER, GLIMPSED THROUGH THE MADNESS OF BATTLE. SHE TOO HAS RETURNED THE MUMMY'S LIFELESS STARE..."



"...AND NOW PLUCKS THE RUBY EYES FOR HER OWN."

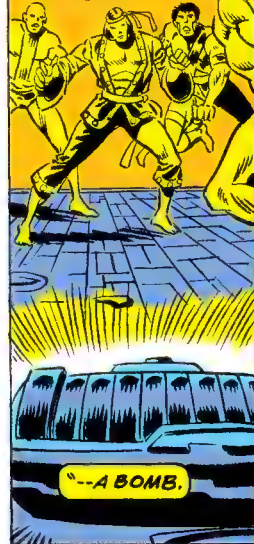
"I MUST END THIS VIOLENCE IF I AM TO STOP FAH LO SUEE IN THE MIDST OF HER--"



"--?!? A GLEAM OF MODERN METAL--?"

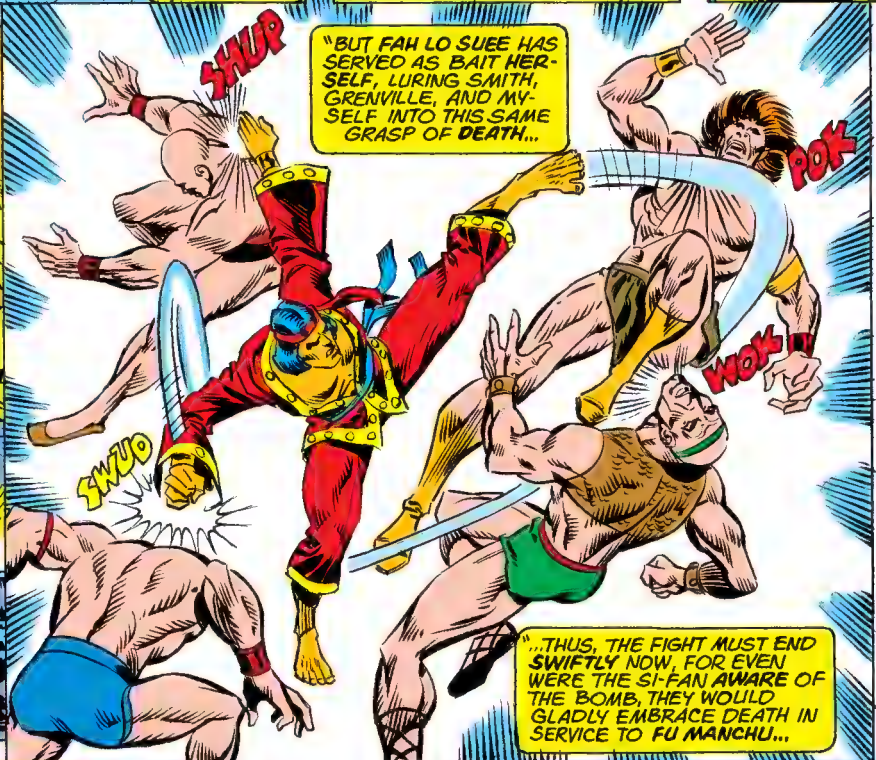


"PREVIOUSLY HIDDEN BY SETH-AMON'S SARCOPHAGUS, THE TRUE NATURE OF THE RUBY EYES NOW LIES EXPOSED. THEY WERE BAIT... LURING MY SISTER INTO THE GRASP OF--"



"...A BOMB."

"BUT FAH LO SUEE HAS SERVED AS BAIT HERSELF, LURING SMITH, GRENVILLE, AND MYSELF INTO THIS SAME GRASP OF DEATH..."



"...THUS, THE FIGHT MUST END SWIFTLY NOW, FOR EVEN WERE THE SI-FAN AWARE OF THE BOMB, THEY WOULD GLADLY EMBRACE DEATH IN SERVICE TO FU MANCHU..."

"IT IS OVER, BUT GREVILLE AND MY SISTER ARE GONE."



"ONLY SMITH REMAINS..."

"QUICKLY, SMITH--WE MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE--!"



"LEAVE...?"

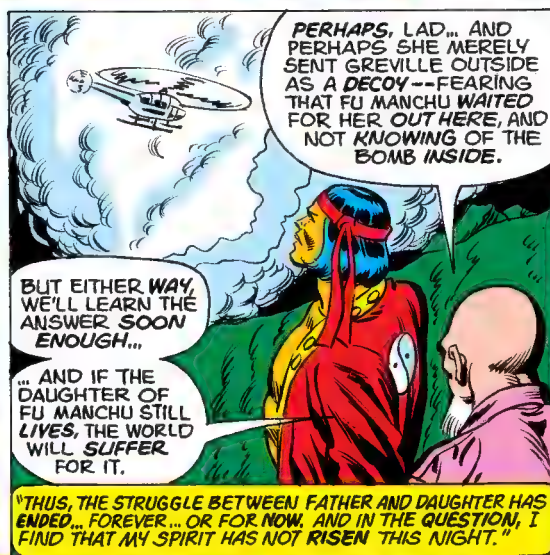
"I... DO NOT TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU..."

"HE IS STILL..."

"...ENTRANCED."



"SMACK!"



NEXT ISSUE: FACE TO FACE WITH ONLY BLOOD BETWEEN-- **CONFRONTATION!**

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP



25¢
©

27
APR
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU



TRAPPED...IN THE LAIR
OF **FU MANCHU!**

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!** TM

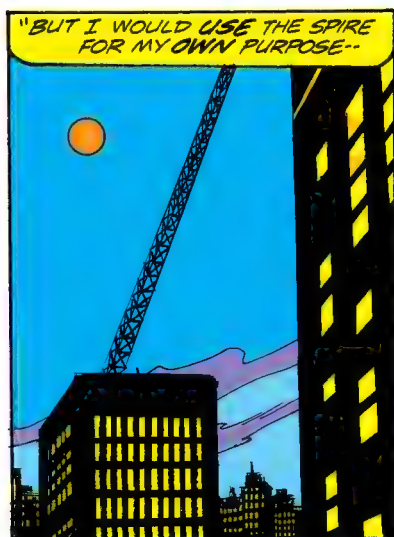
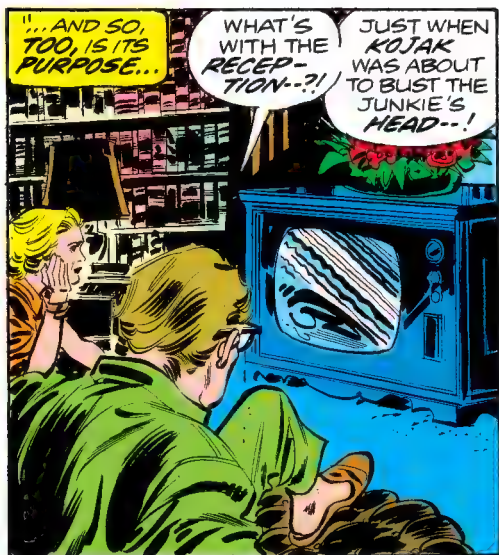
DOUG MOENCH / JOHN BUSCEMA / FRANK SPRINGER / JOHN COSTANZA, letterer / LEN WEIN
WRITER ARTIST INKER COLORIST EDITOR

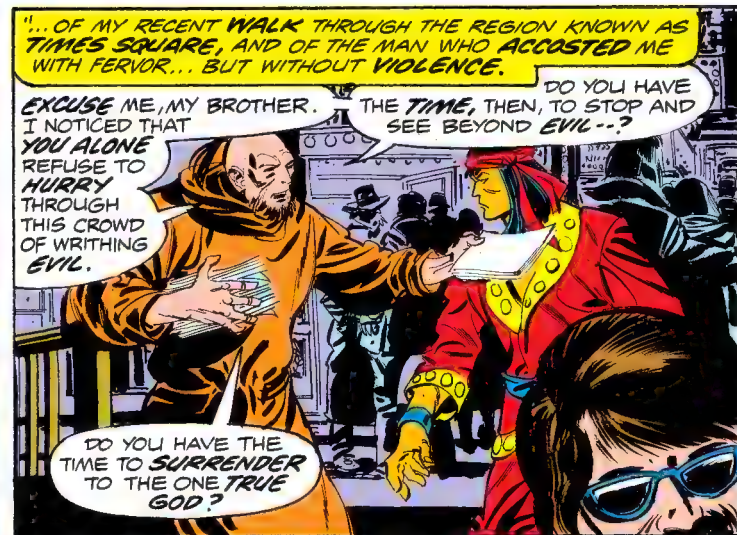
CONFRONTATION

"ALTHOUGH
THE WARMTH
OF DAY HAS
BEEN CHILLED
BY THE DARK-
NESS OF NIGHT,
MY SOUL KNOWS
A DEEPER
COLD..."



"...AND YET, AS I LEAP,
IT SEETHES WITH RAGE."







"I SPUN TO THE HISSED SOUND--

AGK-K!!

SHEKE!

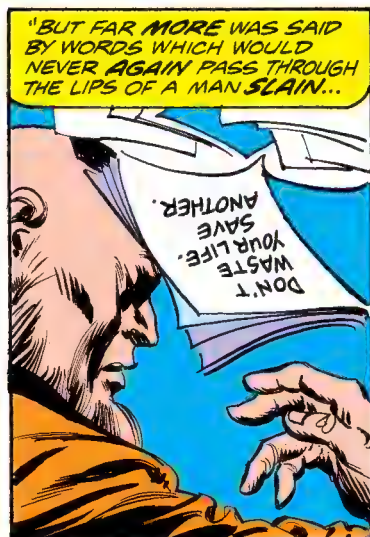


"--AND WATCHED AS THE MAN FELL FORWARD THROUGH SWIFT DEATH... HIS FACE STRIKING THE PAVEMENT...



"...AND HIS BACK, REVEALING THE DRAGON. IT LEERED AT ME THROUGH THE BLOOD IT HAD SPILLED...

"...AND SAID MUCH IN ITS SILENCE.



"BUT FAR MORE WAS SAID BY WORDS WHICH WOULD NEVER AGAIN PASS THROUGH THE LIPS OF A MAN SLAIN...

DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE. SAVE ANOTHER.



"THE DAGGER WAS OF A KIND OFTEN WIELDED BY MY FATHER'S CULT OF SI-FAN ASSASSINS...

"...AND WAS MEANT TO LEER THROUGH MY BLOOD.



"THE ROPE ENDS.

"I BRACE MY FOOT AGAINST THE BUILDING...



"...AND KICK, PROPELLING MYSELF LIKE A PENDULUM...

"...SWINGING BACK--

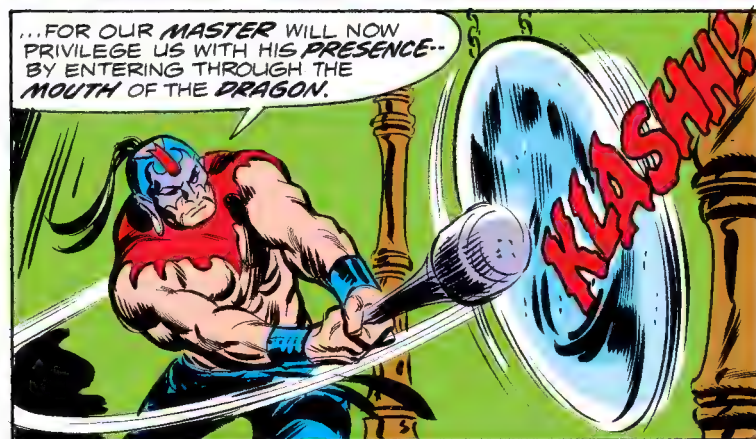
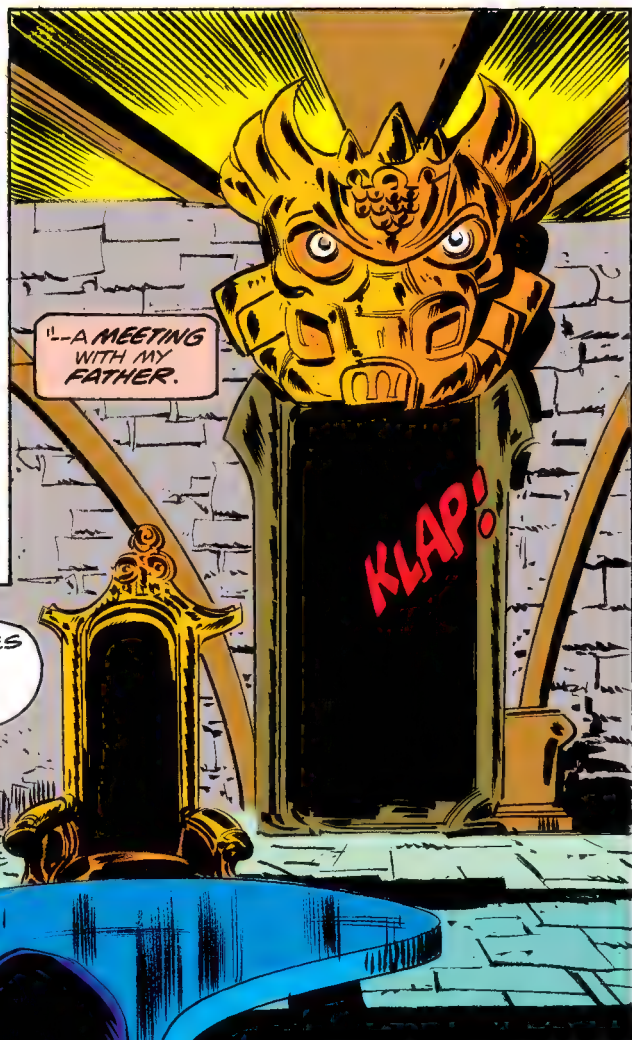


KREESH!

"--THEN FORWARD.



"THE OFFICE IS DARK... THE DOOR VISIBLE...





YOU HAVE BEEN CONVENED TO *LISTEN* TO ME. THEREFORE, YOU HAVE *NOT* BEEN CONVENED TO VIOLATE YOUR VEIL OF *SILENCE*.

YOU WILL *REMEMBER* EVERY WORD I *SPEAK*...

...WORDS WHICH ARE TO BE *CHERISHED*, AND WHOSE *SANCTITY* IS BESTOWED BY THE VEHICLE OF MY *VOICE*.



YOU ALREADY *KNOW* THAT THE GRACE OF MY PRESENCE WILL TOLERATE NOTHING *LESS* THAN SILENCE, ATTENTIVENESS, AND *OBEDIENCE*.

YOU WILL NOW KNOW THAT THE *SUBJECT* OF THIS MEETING IS MY *DAUGHTER*-- SHE WHOM I HAVE NAMED *FAH LO SUEE*, AND SHE WHOM I HAVE NOT *SEEN* FOR A TIME MEASURED IN *YEARS*.

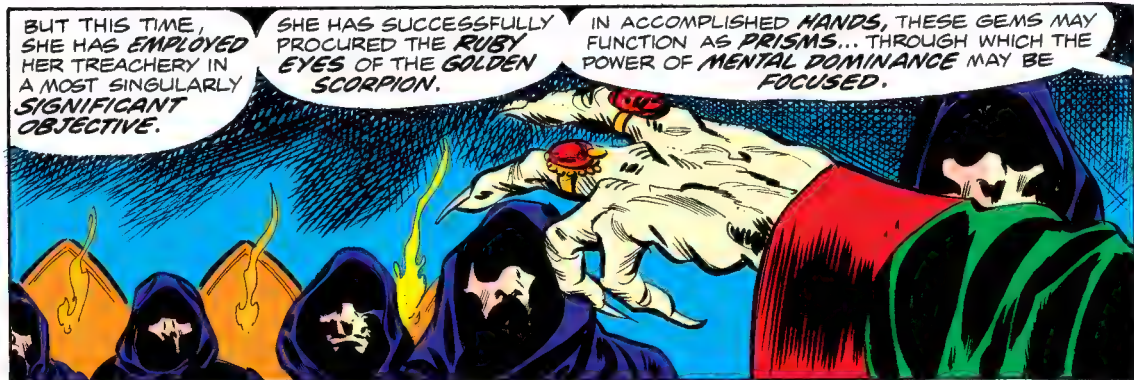
NOTHING HAS *CHANGED* BETWEEN MY DAUGHTER AND MYSELF.



AS *BEFORE*, SHE REFUSES TO *GREET* ME AS DAUGHTER GREETES FATHER. AS *BEFORE*, SHE PROFANES THE *HONOR* WHICH IS MY *RIGHT*...

...AND WHICH I PRESENTED TO HER BY INSTIGATING HER *BIRTH*.

AS *BEFORE*, THE *GUISE* OF HER PROFANITY IS *DEFIANCE* AND *TREACHERY*.



BUT THIS TIME, SHE HAS *EMPLOYED* HER TREACHERY IN A MOST SINGULARLY *SIGNIFICANT OBJECTIVE*.

SHE HAS SUCCESSFULLY PROCURED THE *RUBY EYES* OF THE *GOLDEN SCORPION*.

IN ACCOMPLISHED *HANDS*, THESE GEMS MAY FUNCTION AS *PRISMS*... THROUGH WHICH THE POWER OF *MENTAL DOMINANCE* MAY BE *FOCUSED*.

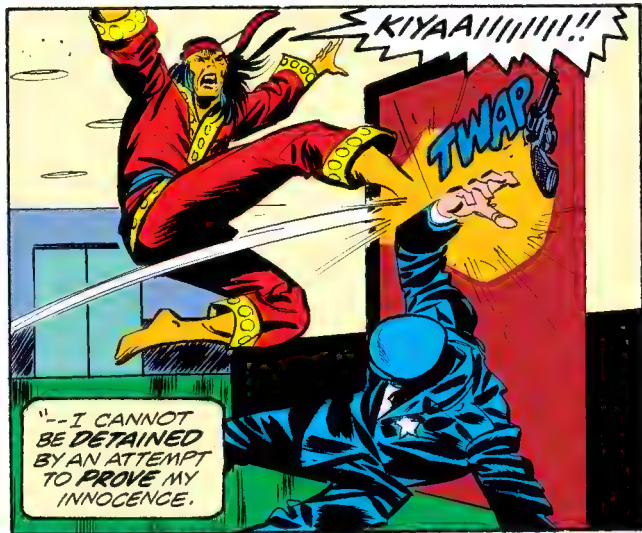
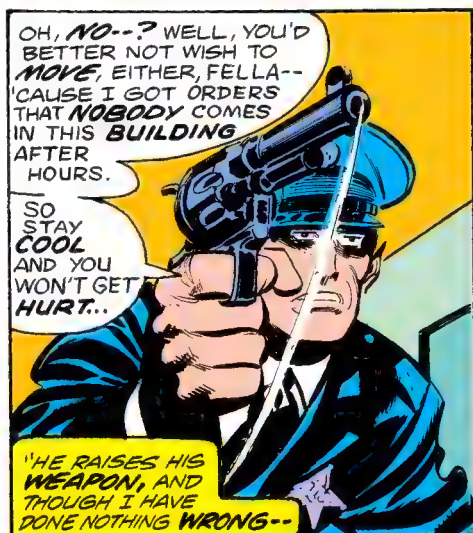
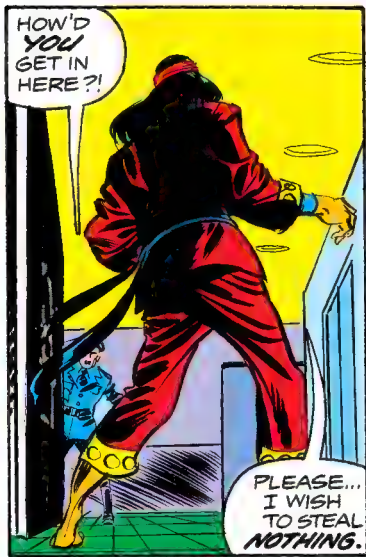


SHOULD SHE ATTEMPT TO EXERT CONTROL OR INFLUENCE OVER *YOU* WITH THE USE OF OF THESE *RUBY EYES*...

...YOU ARE ADVISED TO KEEP ONE THING IN *MIND*...



--THE POWER OF MY EYES.





"I DISPATCH THE ELEVATOR
TO A HIGHER FLOOR..."



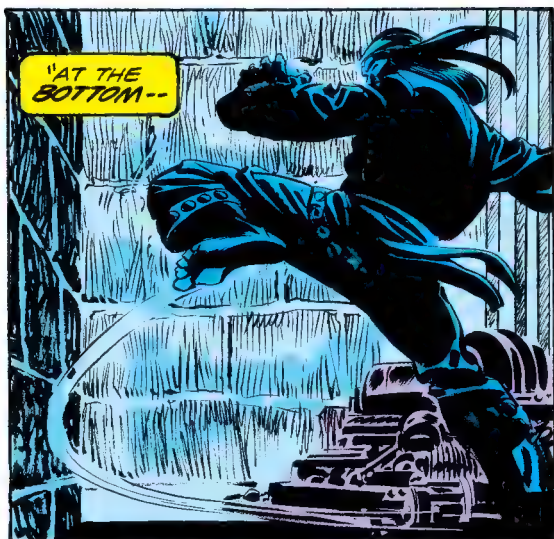
"...SO THAT
WHEN THE
DOORS ARE
FORCED
OPEN--

"--THE SHAFT
IS EMPTY.

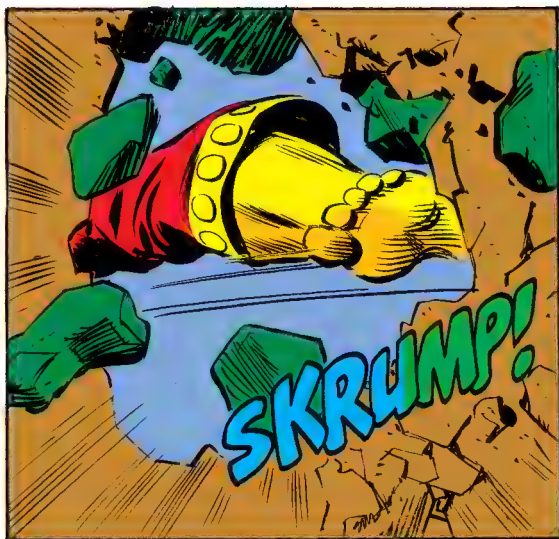


"LIKE THE ROPE BEFORE..."

"...A GREASY CABLE NOW
PROVIDES ME WITH DOWN-
WARD PROGRESS.



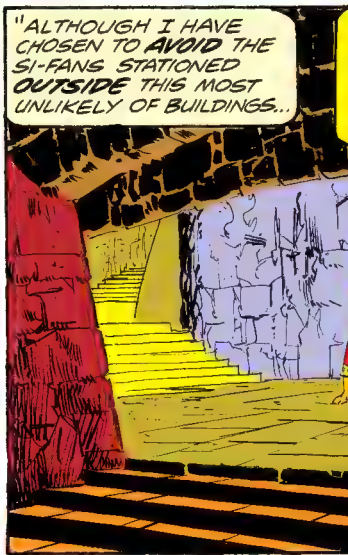
"AT THE
BOTTOM--



SKRUMP!



"AH! IT IS AS I HAD EXPECT-
ED..."



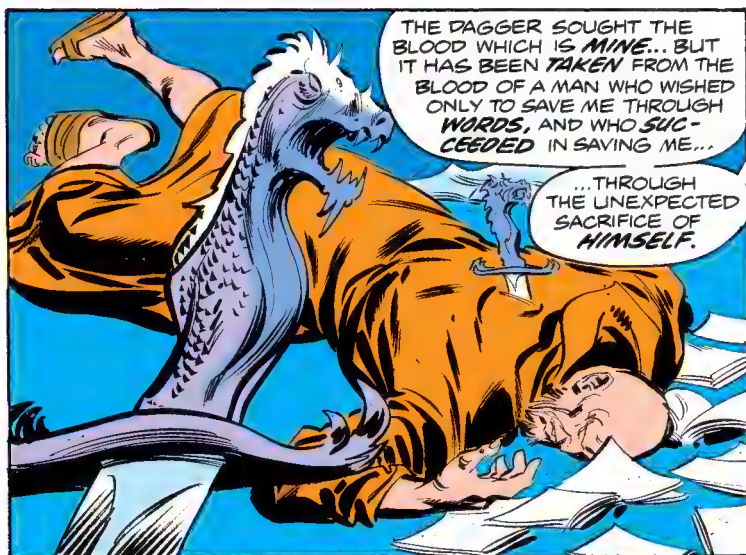
"ALTHOUGH I HAVE
CHOSEN TO AVOID THE
SI-FANS STATIONED
OUTSIDE THIS MOST
UNLIKELY OF BUILDINGS..."



"...I HAVE NEVERTHELESS PENE-
TRATED A SECTION OF MY
FATHER'S SECRET NEW YORK
HEADQUARTERS, A PLACE WHOSE
EVERY DESIGN IS INTENDED TO
EVOKE MEMORIES OF OLD CHINA..."

"FOR ME--NOW--IT EVOKES
NOTHING BUT DEATH... AND
A DAGGER GUISED AS A
DRAGON.





THE DAGGER SOUGHT THE BLOOD WHICH IS **MINE...** BUT IT HAS BEEN **TAKEN** FROM THE BLOOD OF A MAN WHO WISHED ONLY TO SAVE ME THROUGH **WORDS**, AND WHO **SUCCEEDED** IN SAVING ME...

...THROUGH THE UNEXPECTED SACRIFICE OF **HIMSELF.**



I HAVE GONE THROUGH MUCH TROUBLE TO **COME** HERE, MY FATHER, FOR I WOULD **SPEAK** WITH YOU OF THIS DAGGER.

OF THIS DEATH.

OF THIS MAN.



I HAVE GUIDED YOU THROUGH YOUR **YOUTH**, SHANG-CHI. I HAVE **TRAINED** YOU, AND **TUTORED** YOU. IN SO **DOING**, I HAVE **SPOKEN** TO YOU AT GREAT LENGTH.

I HAVE BEEN REWARDED ONLY WITH **TREACHERY.**

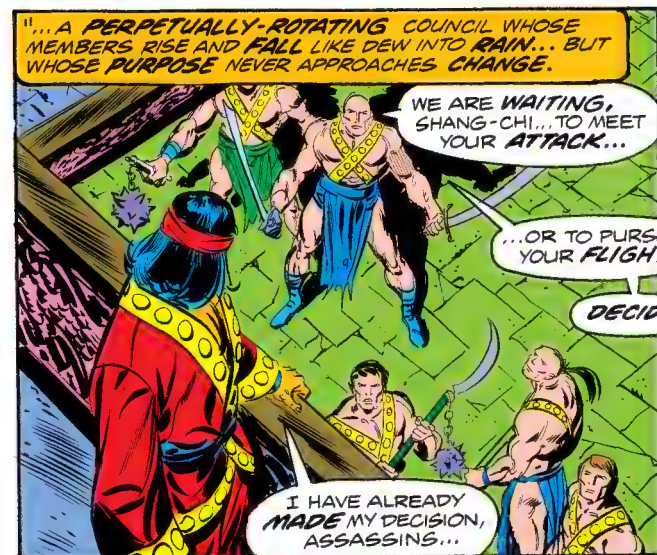
KLAP

THE TIME FOR WORDS HAS DIED.



"AT MY FATHER'S SIGNAL THEY RISE AS **ONE...** SLOWLY... CEREMONIOUSLY... SHEDDING THEIR ROBES TO REVEAL THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS COUNCIL OF **SEVEN**-- A COUNCIL DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I HAVE FACED IN THE PAST... *

* SEE GIANT-SIZE M.O.K.F.#1. --LEN



"...A PERPETUALLY-ROTATING COUNCIL WHOSE MEMBERS RISE AND FALL LIKE DEW INTO RAIN... BUT WHOSE PURPOSE NEVER APPROACHES CHANGE.

WE ARE WAITING, SHANG-CHI... TO MEET YOUR **ATTACK...**

...OR TO PURSUE YOUR **FLIGHT.**

DECIDE.

I HAVE ALREADY **MADE** MY DECISION, ASSASSINS...



THIS NIGHT I WILL **SPEAK** WITH MY **FATHER--**



--NO MATTER WHAT FORMS OF DEATH SEEK TO SILENCE ME!!

"I MUST DIVORCE MYSELF FROM ANGER NOW..."

"-- FOR THE ONE WITH THE BO RUSHES SWIFTLY."



"I REACH FOR THE SLASHING BO WITH MY HANDS--"

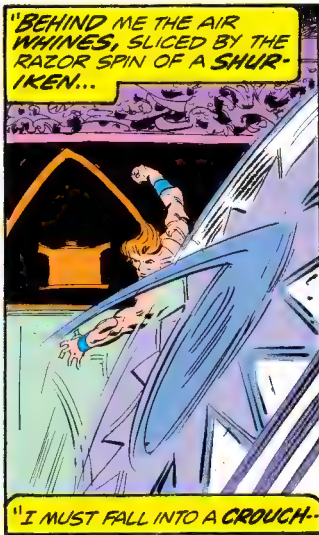


"--AND SEVER IT WITH AN UPWARD KICK."

"THE MANEUVER HAS BEEN NECESSARY..."

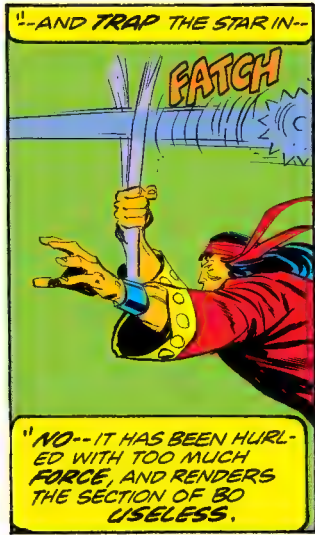


"... TO BLOCK HIS SECOND SLASH."



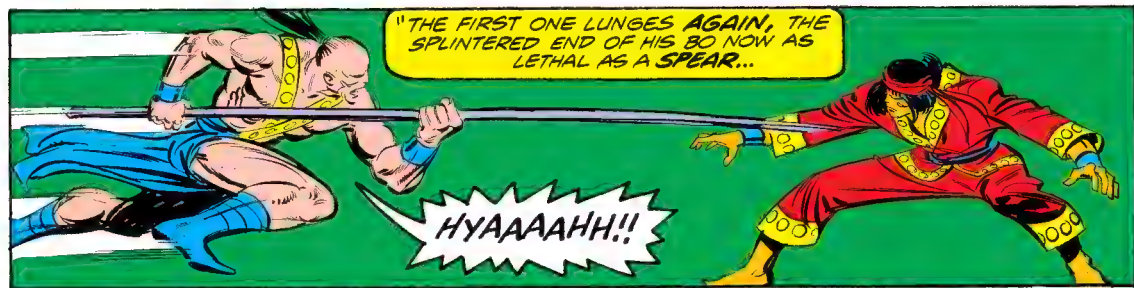
"BEHIND ME THE AIR WHINES, SLICED BY THE RAZOR SPIN OF A SHURIKEN..."

"I MUST FALL INTO A CROUCH--"



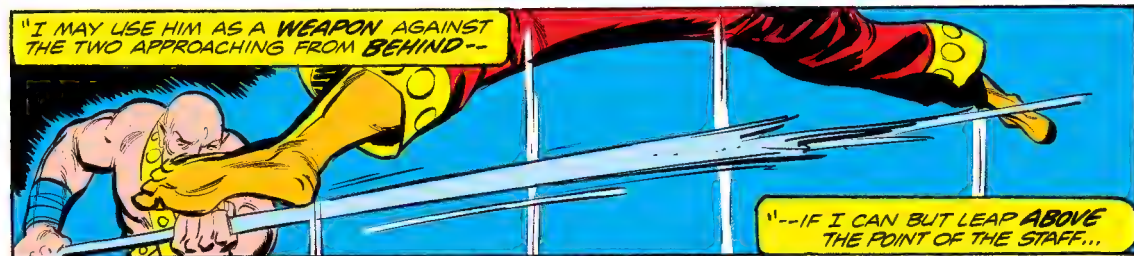
"--AND TRAP THE STAR--"

"NO-- IT HAS BEEN HURLED WITH TOO MUCH FORCE, AND RENDERS THE SECTION OF BO USELESS."



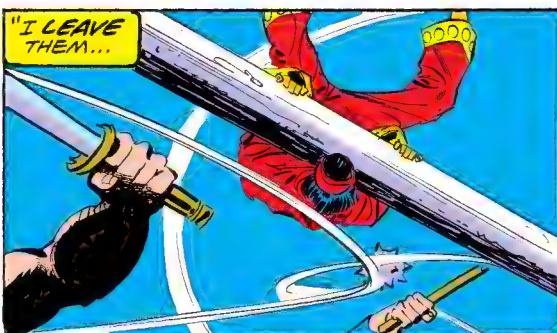
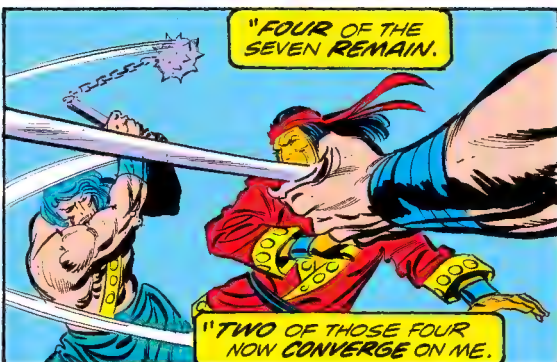
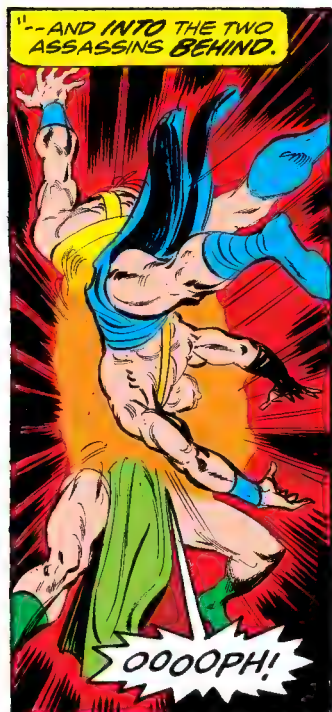
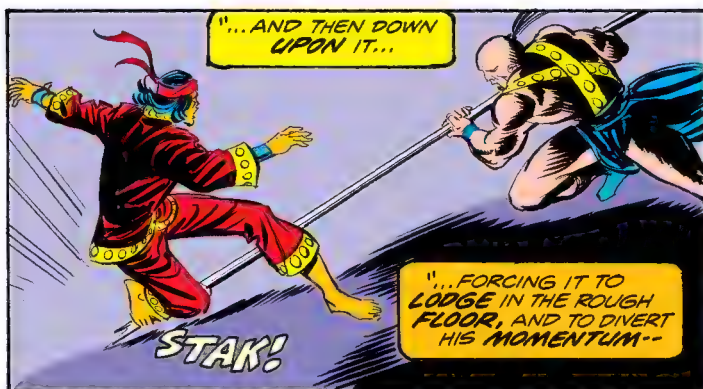
"THE FIRST ONE LUNGES AGAIN, THE SPLINTERED END OF HIS BO NOW AS LETHAL AS A SPEAR..."

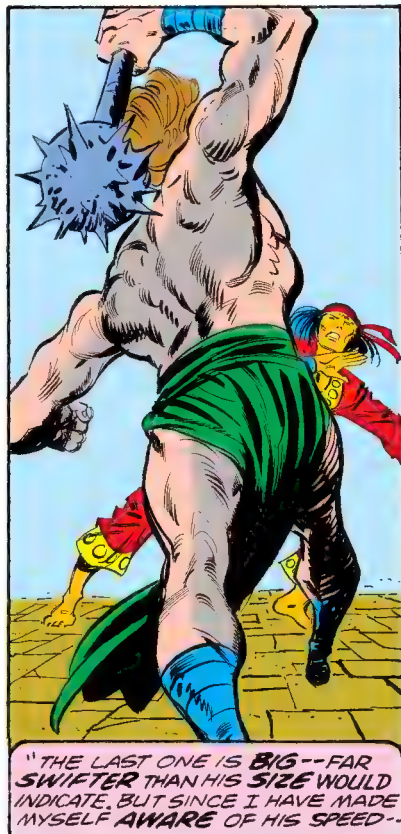
HYAAAAHH!!

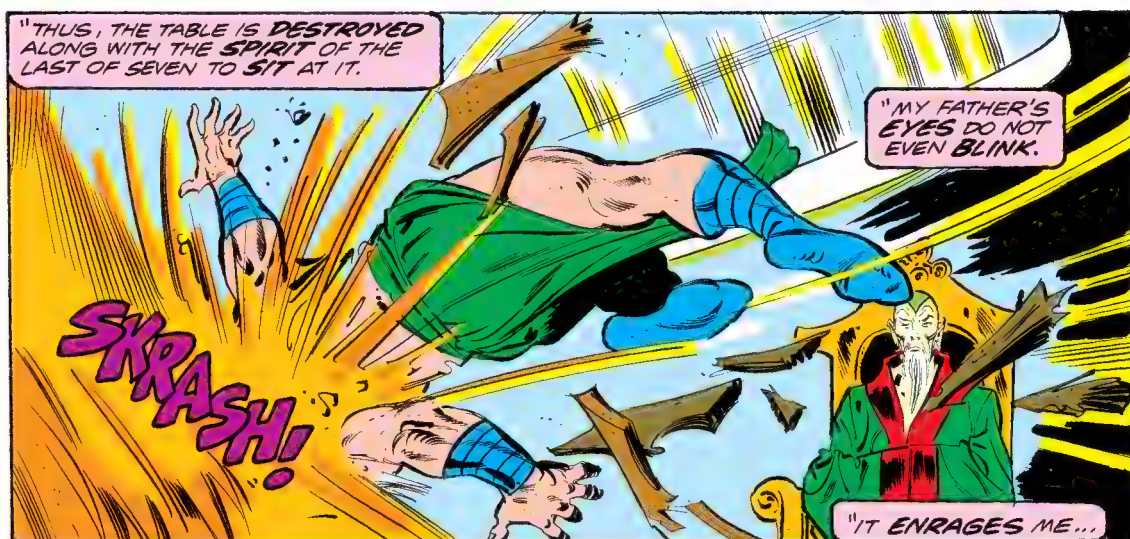
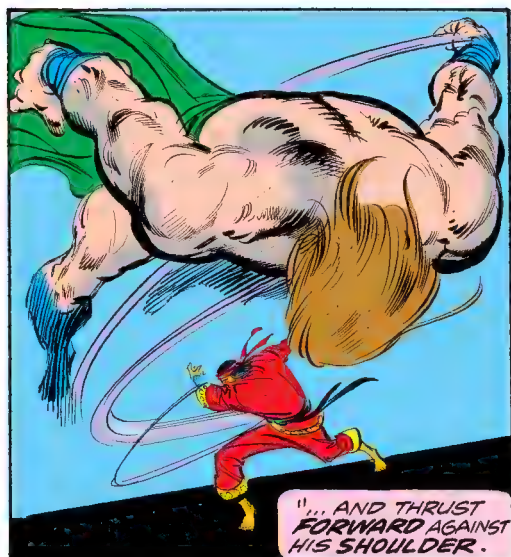
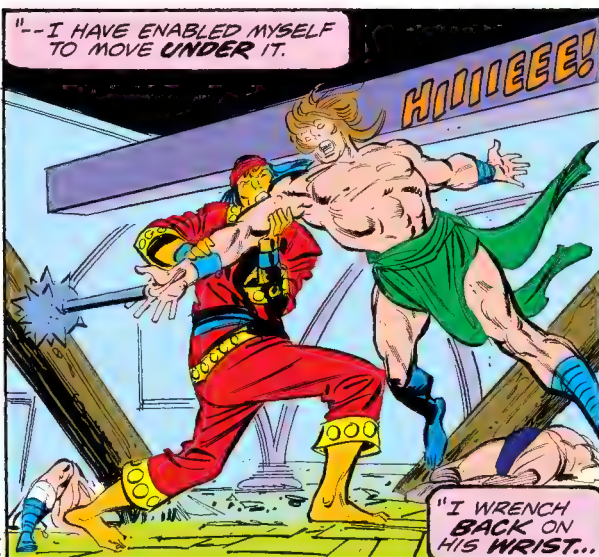


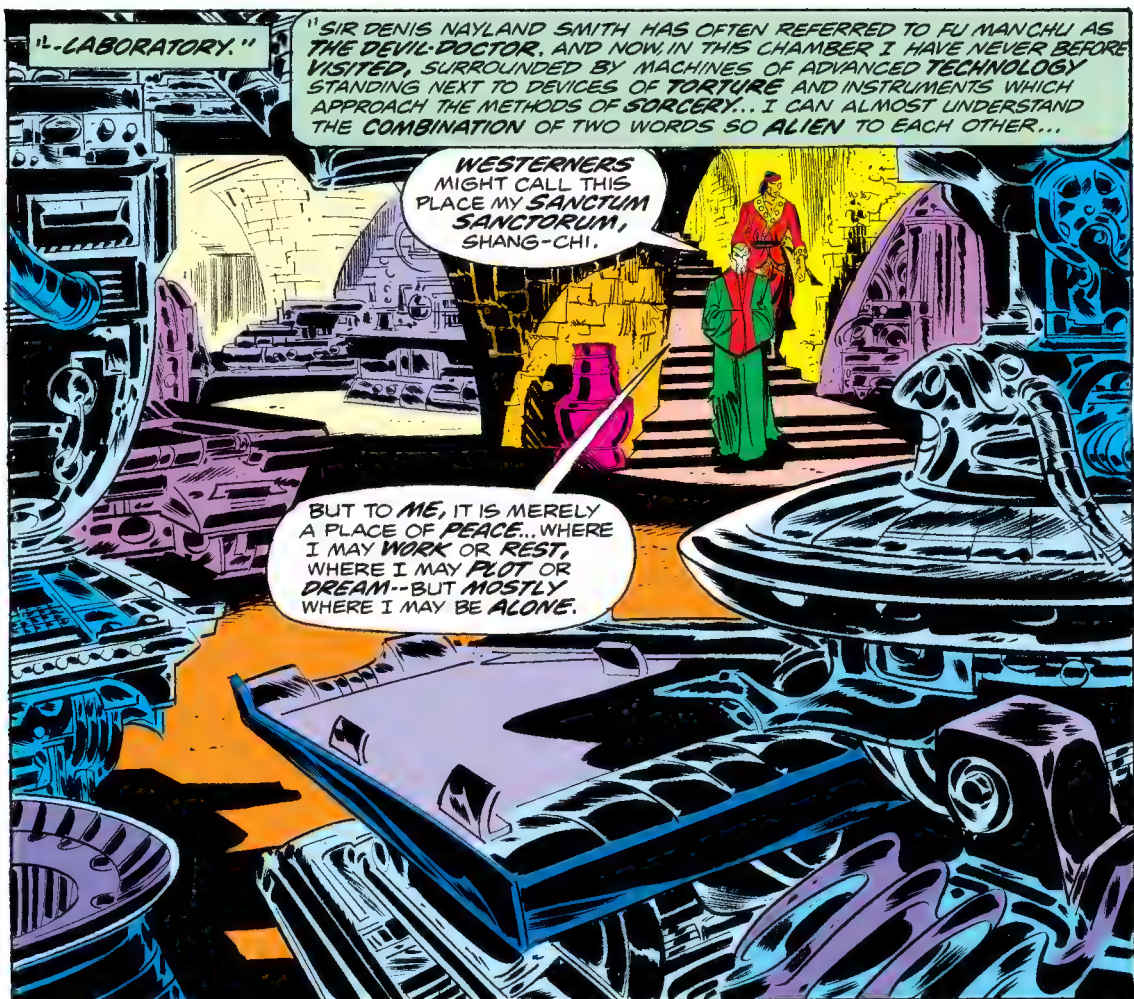
"I MAY USE HIM AS A WEAPON AGAINST THE TWO APPROACHING FROM BEHIND--"

"--IF I CAN BUT LEAP ABOVE THE POINT OF THE STAFF..."









"**L-LABORATORY.**"

"SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH HAS OFTEN REFERRED TO FU MANCHU AS **THE DEVIL-DOCTOR**, AND NOW, IN THIS CHAMBER I HAVE NEVER BEFORE VISITED, SURROUNDED BY MACHINES OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY STANDING NEXT TO DEVICES OF TORTURE AND INSTRUMENTS WHICH APPROACH THE METHODS OF SORCERY... I CAN ALMOST UNDERSTAND THE COMBINATION OF TWO WORDS SO ALIEN TO EACH OTHER..."

WESTERNERS MIGHT CALL THIS PLACE MY **SANCTUM SANCTORUM**, SHANG-CHI.

BUT TO ME, IT IS MERELY A PLACE OF **PEACE**... WHERE I MAY **WORK** OR **REST**, WHERE I MAY **PLOT** OR **DREAM**--BUT MOSTLY WHERE I MAY BE **ALONE**.

BUT I **FORGET** MYSELF, SHANG-CHI. YOU HAVE COME HERE TO SPEAK ON **OTHER MATTERS**...

...MATTERS WHICH DEEPLY **TROUBLE** YOU...

...MATTERS **FED** INTO YOUR MIND BY MY ENEMY **SMITH**, AND **OTHERS** OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

I CAN NO LONGER SPEAK TO YOU AS A **FATHER** WOULD SPEAK TO HIS **SON**, SHANG-CHI. FOR I CANNOT **THINK** OF YOU AS MY SON...

I WILL **CONFESS** SOMETHING TO YOU: YOUR **BETRAYAL** HAS MADE OF ME A VERY **LONELY** MAN. THE FACT **SADDENS** ME...

...AND IN MY **SADNESS** LIES THE **SEVERITY** OF YOUR **BETRAYAL**...

YOU SEE, THROUGH CONSTANT USAGE OF MY *ELIXIR VITAE*-- MY *SERUM OF IMMORTALITY*-- I HAVE LIVED THROUGH *MANY* YEARS...

...*MORE* YEARS THAN YOU CAN *GUESS*, SHANG-CHI.

YEARS WHICH HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH *VAST* EXPERIENCE...

YEARS IN WHICH I HAVE *DONE* EVERYTHING, AND *FELT* EVERYTHING-- UNTIL THERE IS NOW NOTHING LEFT TO *FEEL*-- UNTIL *EMOTION* HAS BECOME NO MORE THAN A *CONQUERED ENEMY*. THUS, MY *SADNESS* IN THE FACE OF YOUR BETRAYAL IS *HIGHLY* SIGNIFICANT.

IF YOU NO LONGER *CARE* ABOUT LIFE, WHY DO YOU *CONTINUE* YOUR *OWN*?

APATHY IS A FAR CRY FROM *DEATH*, SHANG-CHI. BESIDES, I *DO* CARE-- BUT NECESSARILY ON A *GRANDIOSE* SCALE, FOR MY YEARS OF LIFE AND EXPERIENCE *TRANSCEND* THE TRIVIAL... AND NOTHING LESS THAN THE *WORLD* CAN INTEREST ME.

I SEEK TO *CHANGE* THE WORLD-- TO *RE-STORE* IT TO THE GLORY OF THE *PAST*, TO A TIME *FAR* BETTER THAN *TODAY*.

HOW WAS THE WORLD *BETTERED* BY FORCING ME TO BELIEVE I HAD *SLAIN* DR. PERTRIE--?

A TEST OF YOUR *LOYALTY*, SHANG-CHI-- A TEST YOU *FAILED* UPON HEARING THE *FIRST* WORDS FROM SMITH'S TWISTED MOUTH.

YOU SEE, I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD *AID* ME IN ATTAINING MY GOALS...

INSTEAD, YOU HAVE ADOPTED *DIFFERENT* GOALS-- AND IN SO DOING, YOU HAVE ERECTED BETWEEN US A CONFLICT OF *IDEALS*. YOU THINK ME *CRUEL* AND YOURSELF *GENTLE*-- THAT I AM *EVIL* AND YOU *GOOD*-- THAT I AM THE *VILLAIN* TO YOUR SANCTIMONIOUS *HERO*.

BUT WHO ARE *YOU* TO JUDGE ME-- TO JUDGE *ANYONE*-- AS *EVIL*? DOES IT *ENHANCE* THE RISING AND ADVANCING OF YOUR *SPIRIT*? OR HAS YOUR SPIRIT RISEN TO SUCH HEIGHTS THAT YOU NOW BELIEVE YOURSELF TO BE *GOD*-- CAPABLE OF EXERCISING *CELESTIAL* JUDGEMENT ON ALL THOSE *BELOW* YOU...?

THERE ARE *MANY* PATHS, SHANG-CHI...

...DO NOT *CONDEMN* ME FOR FOLLOWING A PATH *DIFFERENT* FROM YOURS. THEY ALL LEAD INEVITABLY TO *DEATH*-- AND *ALL* MEN ARE EQUALLY REWARDED FOR THEIR ACTIONS IN LIFE WITH THE *SAME* DEATH.

WILL *YOUR* DEATH BE ANY BETTER THAN *MINE*...? BEFORE YOU *ANSWER*, SHANG-CHI, CONSIDER *THIS*...

...TO ME, *YOU* ARE *EVIL*. TO *ME*, YOU ARE THE *VILLAIN*... AND *I* THE *HERO*.

YOU HAVE **KILLED** A MAN TONIGHT--AND **STILL** YOU **DENY** THAT YOU ARE ANY-THING BUT **EVIL**--?!

IT IS TRUE I DO NOT HESITATE TO PLACE THE VALUE OF **LIFE** BENEATH THE VALUE OF MY **GOALS**...

...BUT I KILLED **NO ONE** THIS NIGHT, SHANG-CHI. YOU SEE --

"-- SO, TOO, DID **FAH LO SUEE** ESCAPE, MOMENTS BEFORE MY EX-PLOSIVE DETONATED. SHE LEFT THE PYRAMID WITH THE RUBY EYES IN HER **POSSESSION**..."

"-- YOUR **SISTER** STILL LIVES.

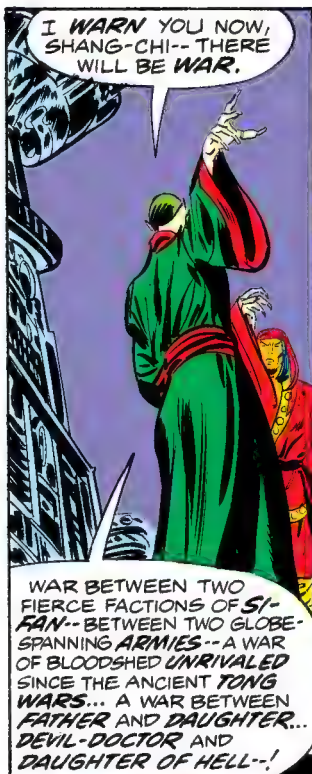
"EVEN AS YOU ESCAPED FROM THE PYRAMID, WITH SMITH CARRIED ON YOUR **BACK**-- *

* LAST ISSUE. -- LEN.

YOU **SEE**, SHANG-CHI... YOU ARE NOT THE **ONLY** ONE TO SPRING FROM MY LOINS SEEKING TO **DESTROY** ME...

...AND NOW **CONTROLS** A GROWING SEGMENT OF MY **SI-FAN**.

IT WAS **SHE** WHO ORDERED THE SI-FAN TO ASSASSINATE YOU TONIGHT, AND IT WAS UNDER **HER** ORDERS THAT THAT THE ASSASSIN **FAILED** AND INSTEAD MURDERED THE **INNOCENT** YOU **SPEAK** OF.



I WARN YOU NOW, SHANG-CHI-- THERE WILL BE WAR.

WAR BETWEEN TWO FIERCE FACTIONS OF SI-FAN-- BETWEEN TWO GLOBE-SPANNING ARMIES-- A WAR OF BLOODSHED UNRIVALED SINCE THE ANCIENT TONG WARS... A WAR BETWEEN FATHER AND DAUGHTER... DEVIL-DOCTOR AND DAUGHTER OF HELL--!



AND YOU WILL BE CAUGHT BETWEEN IT, SHANG-CHI!! HELPLESS--!

UNLESS YOU END IT BEFORE IT BEGINS--!



UNLESS YOU END IT RIGHT NOW--

-- BY KILLING ME, MY SON.



NO--! I CANNOT YET MAKE THAT DECISION. I WISH ONLY TO SLAY EVIL... NOT YOU...!



THEN LEAVE ME.

BUT KNOW THIS: NOTHING HAS CHANGED BETWEEN US.

NOTHING.



"I CARRY HIS LAST WORDS INTO THE COLD NIGHT, AND I WALK LONG IN THEIR ECHO ... UNTIL I DECIDE, AT LAST, THAT ONCE AGAIN--

--MY FATHER HAS LIED TO ME.

NEXT: A DYNAMIC NEW DIRECTION in: **DEATH-DEAL!** FOR SHANG-CHI

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUPTM



25¢
EC

28
MAY
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FUTM



THE *SON OF FU MANCHU* VS. THE
STEEL-SMASHING *SHADOW-STALKER* -
IN THE MOST OFF-BEAT *MARTIAL-ARTS*
MASTERWORK OF THE YEAR!

DEATH OF A SPIRIT!



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

DOUG MOENCH
WRITER

RON WILSON, ED HANNIGAN, AUBREY BRADFORD
PENCILLERS

SAL TRAPANI
INKER

ARTIE SIMEK
LETTERER
PHIL RACHE
COLORIST

LEN WEIN
EDITOR

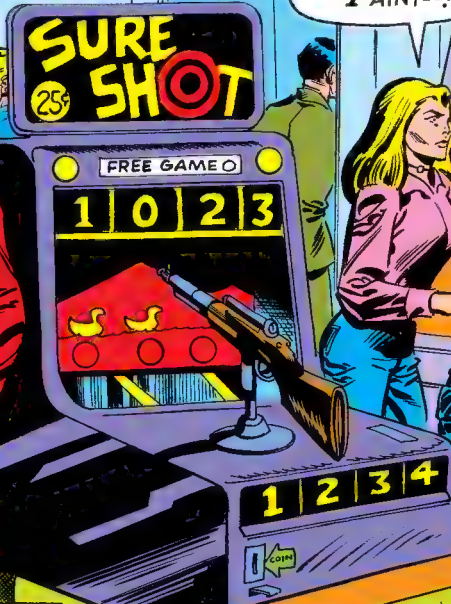
A SMALL SPIRIT SLOWLY SHAPED...

"I AM NOT CERTAIN I UNDERSTAND THIS PLACE, CALLED A PENNY ARCADE, NONE OF ITS BRIGHTLY PAINTED DEVICES WILL FUNCTION FOR ANY COIN LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE CENTS. STILL, I HAVE COME HERE ONLY TO OBSERVE..."

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, FRANK-- WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE UP? A HENRY AARON YOU AIN'T--AND A TREE WITH QUARTERS GROWIN' ON IT I AINT--!

DON'T SPLIT YOUR LEVIS, JANET-- I JUST WANNA PLAY ONE MORE GAME.

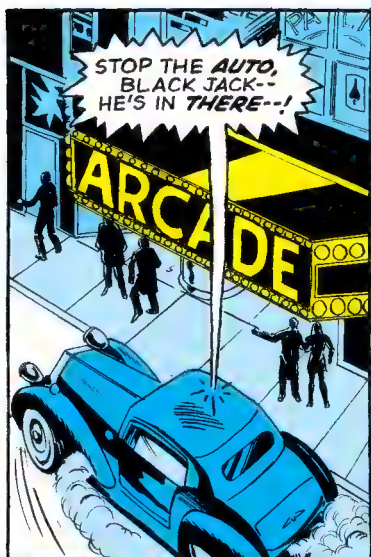
I KNOW I CAN DO IT--!



"BURSTS OF MANY-COLORED LIGHTS, STAGGATO CLICKS AND CLAMOROUS BELLS... WEAPONS FIRING WITHOUT BULLETS, EXPLODING WITH DISSONANT CLANGS, AND RESULTING IN A FLASH OF NUMERALS RATHER THAN A SPILL OF BLOOD... BUTTONS AND LEVERS, TRIGGERS AND KNOBS, SPRINGS... LOUD VOICES OF DISMAY AND ANGER..."

"...HARSH LAUGHTER AND SHOUTS OF JUBILANCE..."

"IT IS FASCINATING... BUT I AM CERTAIN I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THESE...GAMES."



STOP THE AUTO,
BLACK JACK--
HE'S IN THERE--!



I SEE 'IM, RESTON--BUT
HOW THE BALMY CHINA-
MAN THINKS HE CAN
MEDITATE IN A MAD-
HOUSE LIKE THIS--

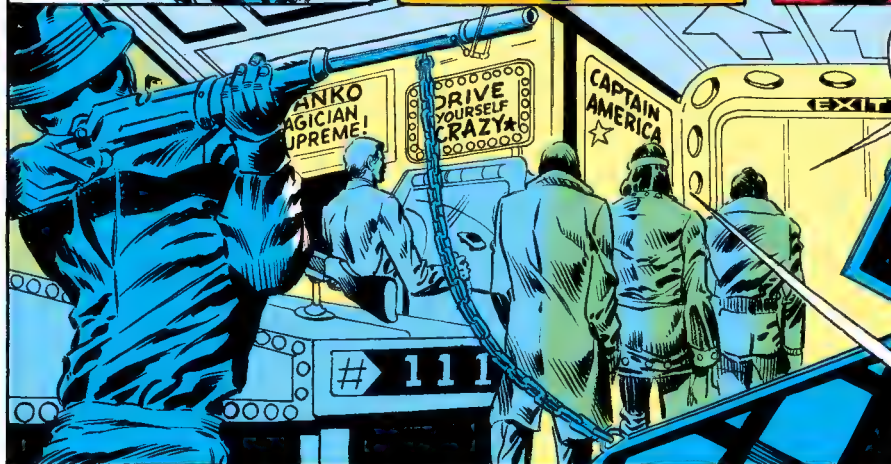
AW, WHAT'S THE
USE--? COME ON.



"BLACK JACK TARR...AND
ANOTHER OF NAYLAND SMITH'S
AIDES, CLIVE RESTON...ACOST
ME WITH GREAT URGENCY...

I TOLD YOU WHERE
I'D BE IF NEEDED...

YEAH...SURE,
CHI--BUT
FOR A SMALL
AREA...



...TIMES SQUARE
IS DEFINITELY
A BIG PLACE.

NOW LET'S
GET OUT OF
THIS GAUDY
JOINT-- 'CAUSE
IN CASE YOU
AIN'T GUESSED
IT YET, YOU
ARE NEEDED.

BY
SMITH...?



BY SMITH MORE
THAN ANYONE
ELSE, SHANG-CHI.

HE'S BEEN
KIDNAPED,
CHINAMAN.

"AGAIN--?!
BY FU MANCHU?"



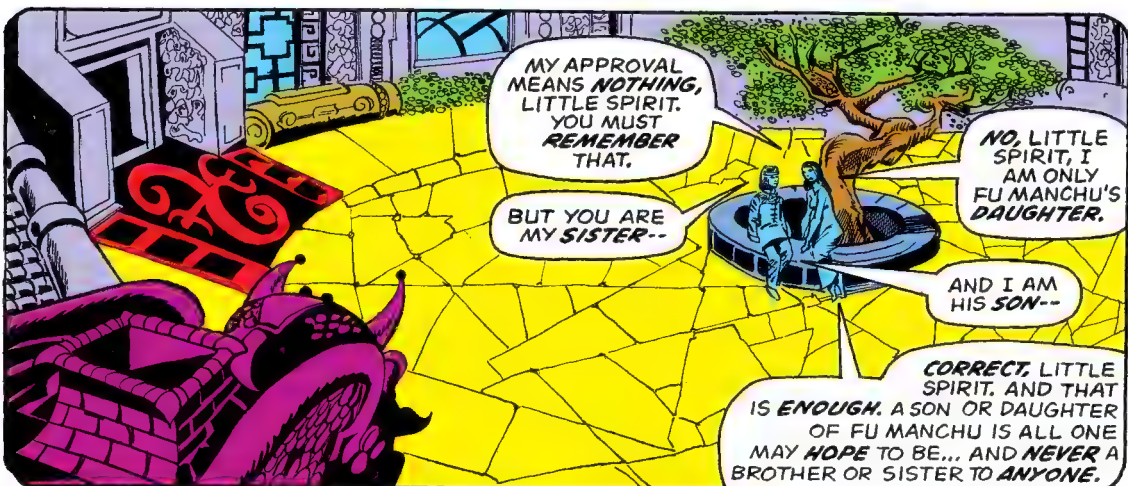
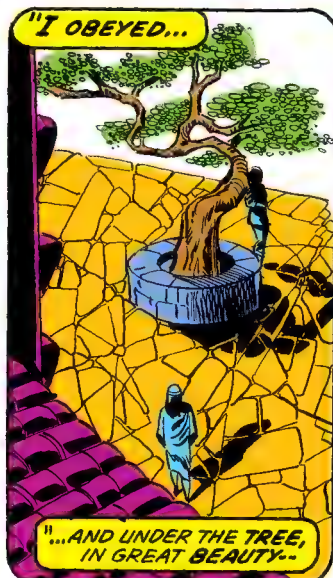
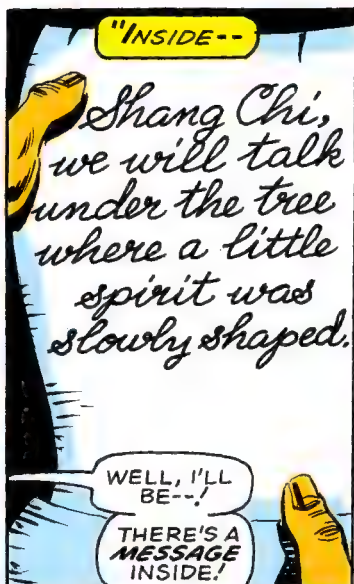
MY
FATHER--?!

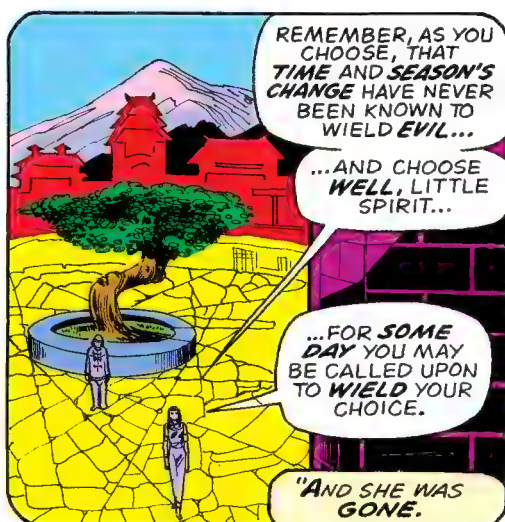
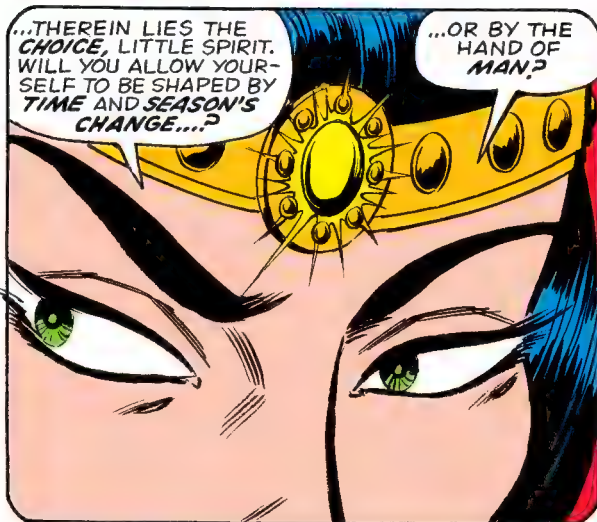
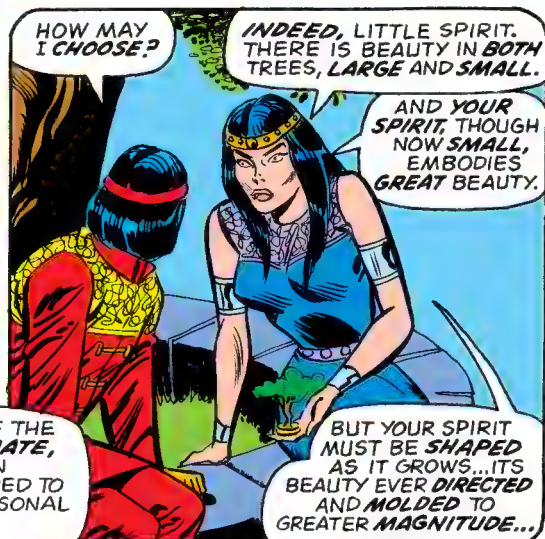
WHO ELSE?
HERE--THIS
BAMBOO TUBE
WAS FOUND IN
SMITH'S ROOM...



...ALONG
WITH A
SPILLED
DRINK
HE'D HARDLY
SIPPED...

...AND SOME
CURTAINS
FLUTTERING
IN THE
OPENED
WINDOW.







...IT WAS SENT
BY MY **HALF-**
SISTER.



THEN IT WAS **FAH LO SUEE** WHO
ABDUCTED SMITH. **LITTLE DIFFER-**
ENCE--SHE'S JUST AS **CUNNING**
AND **TREACHEROUS** AS **FU MANCHU**
HIMSELF. OR AS MY **FATHER** USED
TO SAY--**ALL CATS ARE GREY.**

ANY IDEA
WHERE SHE
MIGHT'VE
TAKEN **SIR**
DENIS, CHI?

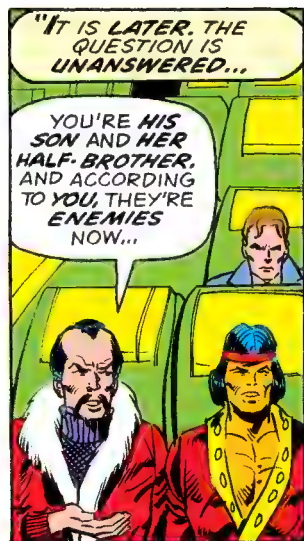


TO MY **FATHER'S** **FORTRESS**
IN **HONAN...** WHERE **DESTINY**
IS BOTH **SHAPED,** AND
ALLOWED TO GROW **FREELY.**

WHATEVER **THAT**
MEANS. BUT YOU
SAY **CHINA,** HUH?
WELL, IT'LL BE
DIFFICULT, BUT
CONSIDERING **SIR**
DENIS' POSITION...

...IT'LL
HAVE
TO BE
ARRANGED.

"THE CAR SPEEDS,
THEN, TO THE AIRPORT... AS I
PONDER RESTON'S WORDS. IF
FATHER AND DAUGHTER ARE THE
SAME, THEN WHAT OF THE SON...?"



"IT IS LATER. THE
QUESTION IS
UNANSWERED..."

YOU'RE **HIS**
SON AND **HER**
HALF-BROTHER.
AND ACCORDING
TO YOU, THEY'RE
ENEMIES
NOW...

SO WHAT'S **SHE**
DOING IN **HIS**
FORTRESS--?

I CAN ONLY
TELL YOU,
BLACK JACK,
THAT WHEN I
LAST VISITED
MY **FATHER'S**
LABORATORY--*

--HE TOLD
ME...

***LAST ISSUE.**
--LEN.



I AM **INNOCENT,**
SHANG-CHI... THOUGH
ONLY BY **CIRCUM-**
STANCE.

HAD I **WISHED**
TO KILL THE
MAN YOU **SPEAK**
OF... HE WOULD
NOW LIE **DEAD.**



BUT I DO NOT EVEN
KNOW WHO HE **WAS--**
AND IF HE **DOES** LIE
DEAD, SLAIN BY A
SI-FAN ASSASSIN,
IT IS NOT **MY DOING.**

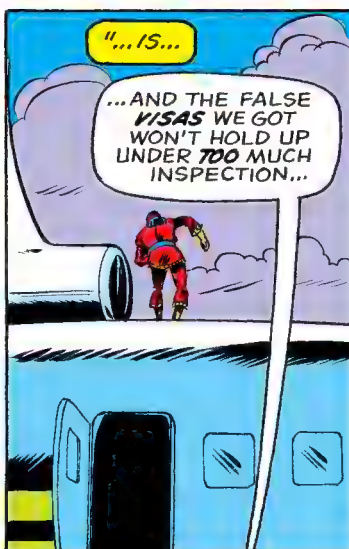
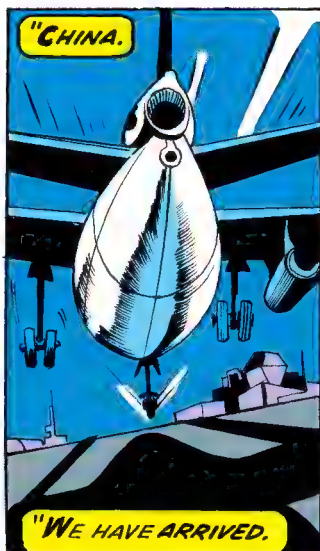
YOU **SEE,** **SHANG-CHI,** A LARGE
SEGMENT OF THE **SI-FAN** NO
LONGER **OBEYS** ME. THEIR
LOYALTY HAS BEEN **STOLEN** BY
THE OWNER OF THE **HYPNOTIC**
RUBY EYES OF THE GOLDEN
BEETLE.

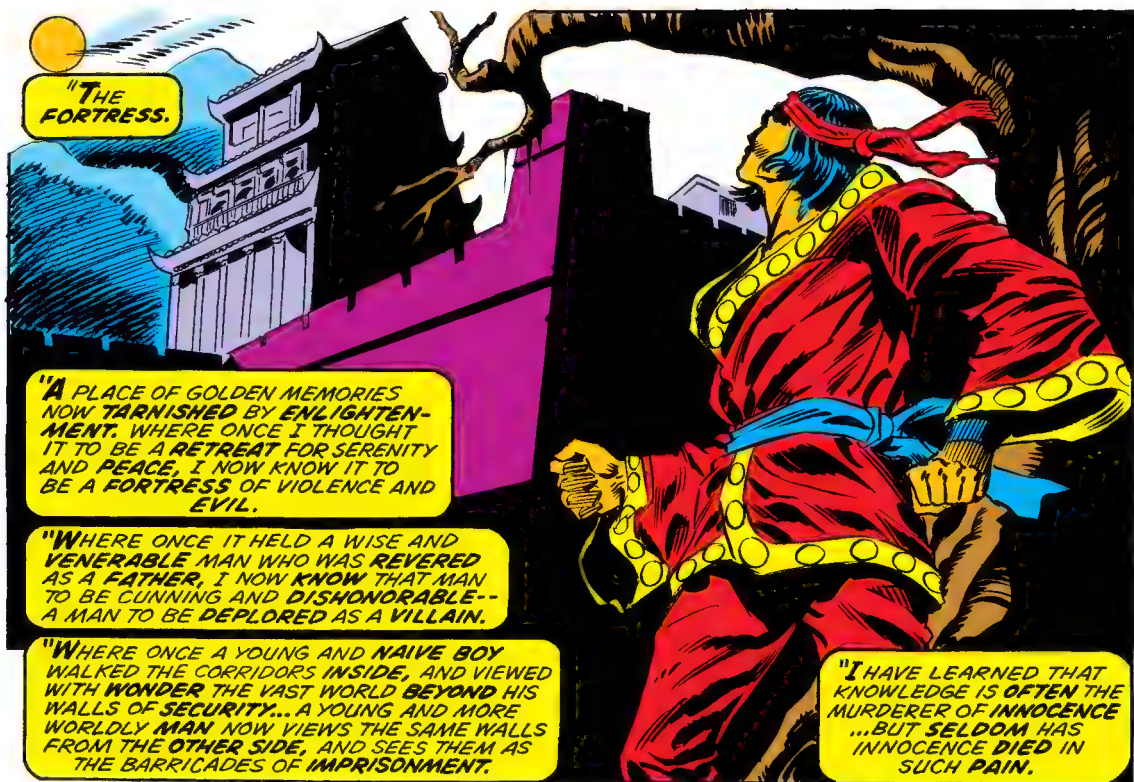


IN **SHORT,**
THEY NOW
OBEY **FAH**
LO SUEE...

...EVEN IN SEEKING
MY DEATH. AND THUS,
A **WAR** APPROACHES,
SHANG-CHI-- A WAR
BETWEEN **FATHER**
AND **DAUGHTER.**

BEAR IN MIND
THAT **NEITHER**
OF US WILL
HESITATE TO
PLACE YOU IN
THE **MIDDLE** OF
THAT WAR...
AND **SLAY** YOU,
IF NECESSARY.





"THE
FORTRESS.

"A PLACE OF GOLDEN MEMORIES
NOW TARNISHED BY ENLIGHTEN-
MENT. WHERE ONCE I THOUGHT
IT TO BE A RETREAT FOR SERENITY
AND PEACE, I NOW KNOW IT TO
BE A FORTRESS OF VIOLENCE AND
EVIL.

"WHERE ONCE IT HELD A WISE AND
VENERABLE MAN WHO WAS REVERED
AS A FATHER, I NOW KNOW THAT MAN
TO BE CUNNING AND DISHONORABLE--
A MAN TO BE DEPLORED AS A VILLAIN.

"WHERE ONCE A YOUNG AND NAIVE BOY
WALKED THE CORRIDORS INSIDE, AND VIEWED
WITH WONDER THE VAST WORLD BEYOND HIS
WALLS OF SECURITY... A YOUNG AND MORE
WORLDLY MAN NOW VIEWS THE SAME WALLS
FROM THE OTHER SIDE, AND SEES THEM AS
THE BARRICADES OF IMPRISONMENT.

"I HAVE LEARNED THAT
KNOWLEDGE IS OFTEN THE
MURDERER OF INNOCENCE
...BUT SELDOM HAS
INNOCENCE DIED IN
SUCH PAIN.



"FOR NOW I MUST CON-
FRONT THIS PLACE WHICH
WAS ONCE MY ENTIRE AND
CHERISHED REALM OF
EXISTENCE...

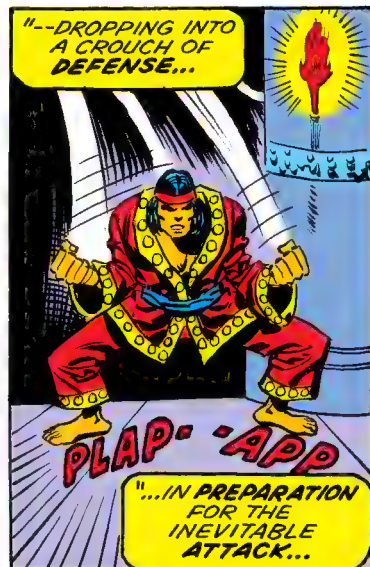
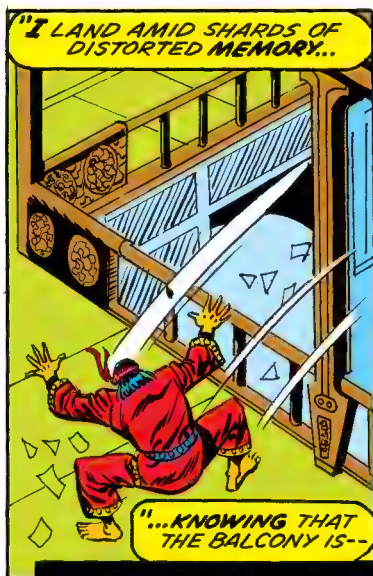


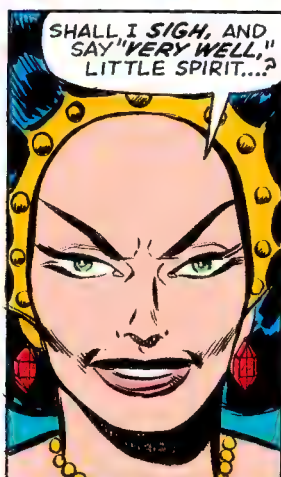
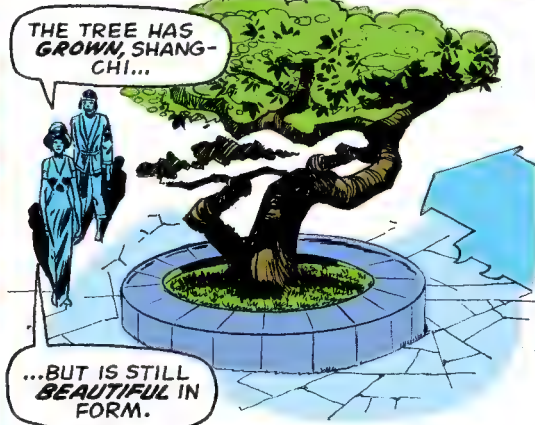
"...AND IN SEEKING TO RETURN
TO IT-- TO MY FORMER HOME--

"-- I MUST DEFILE
IT...



"...SHATTERING WHAT WAS
ONCE MY EYE TO THE
VAST WORLD BEYOND.





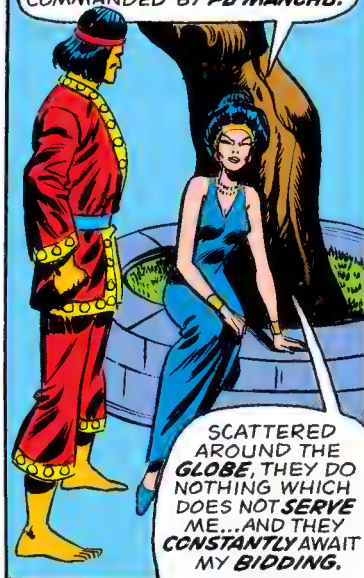
I AM IN POSSESSION OF THE **RUBY EYES**, SHANG-CHI... AND NOW **WEAR THEM AS EAR-RINGS**. EVERY **FACET** OF THE TWIN GEMS IS A **RIVER** THROUGH WHICH THE STRENGTH OF MY **WILL** MAY **FLOW**...



WITH THE **RUBY EYES**, I AM ABLE TO **CHANNEL** MY WILL INTO **OTHERS** WHO--UNLIKE **YOU**--ARE **WEAK OF SPIRIT**. THEIR WILL BECOMES **MINE**, AND THEY LOOK UPON ME IN **OBEISANCE** AND **OBEDIENCE**.



ALREADY I HAVE HYPNOTIZED A **LEGION** OF FOLLOWERS. I HAVE GATHERED AN ARMY OF SI-FAN TO **RIVAL** THOSE COMMANDED BY **FU MANCHU**.



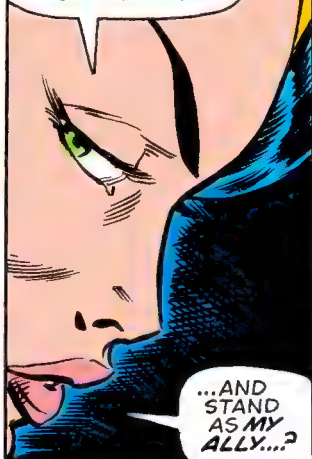
SCATTERED AROUND THE **GLOBE**, THEY DO NOTHING WHICH DOES NOT **SERVE** ME...AND THEY **CONSTANTLY** AWAIT MY **BIDDING**.

BUT EVEN THOUGH I HAVE **OVER-TAKEN THIS FORTRESS** IN OUR FATHER'S **ABSENCE**, I AM NOT YET CERTAIN THAT I MAY **DE-FEAT** FU MANCHU IN **DIRECT CONFRONTATION**. I NEED AN **ALLY**, SHANG-CHI--A **STRONG** ONE...



I ONCE TOLD YOU THAT **SOMEDAY** YOU WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A **CHOICE**--BETWEEN **FU MANCHU** AND YOUR GROWTH IN **OTHER DIRECTIONS**...

WILL YOU CHOOSE **TODAY**...**AGAINST** OUR FATHER...?



...AND STAND AS MY **ALLY**...?

AS I COULD NOT CHOOSE BETWEEN THE BEAUTY OF A **LARGE TREE** AND ONE **SMALLER**...



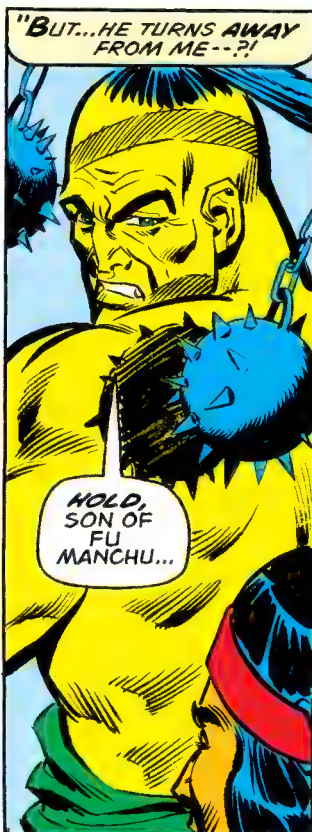
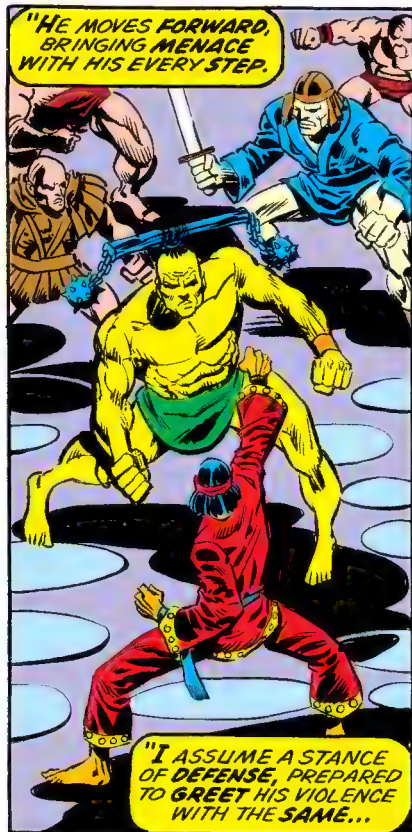
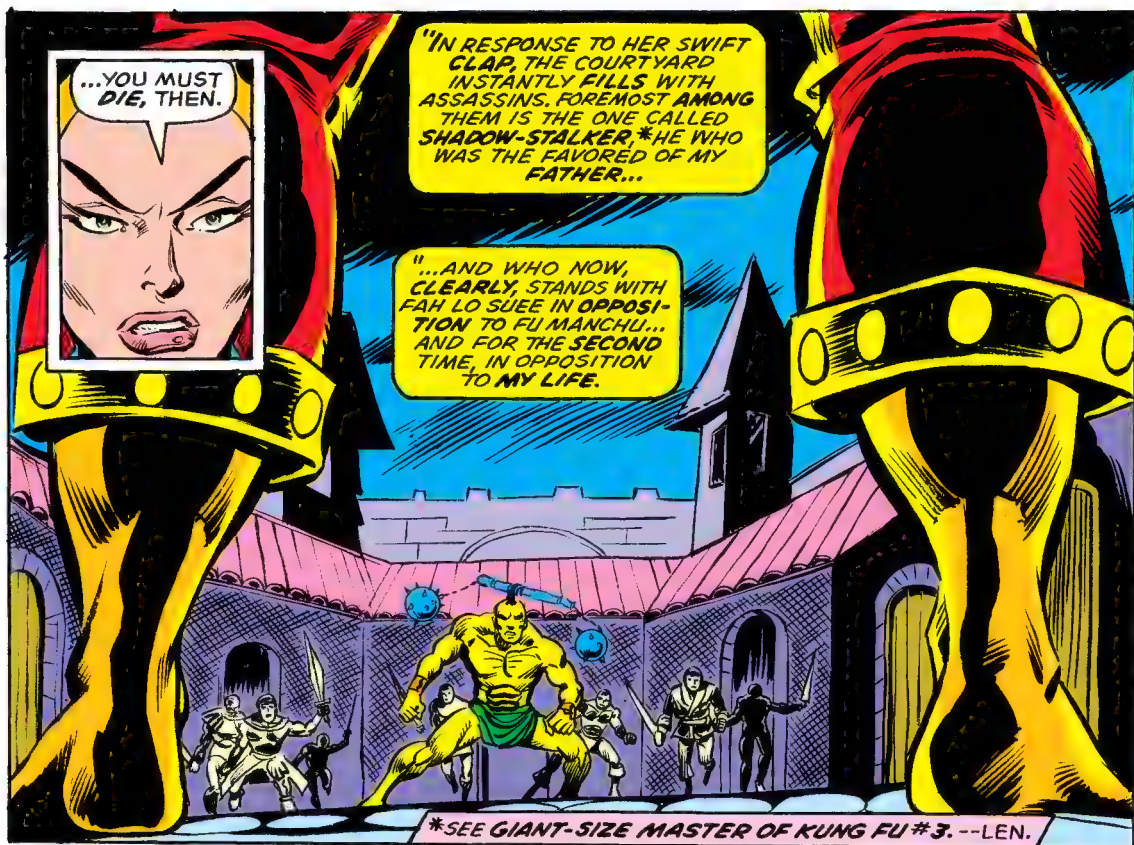
ARE YOU **CERTAIN**?

...I CANNOT **NOW** CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO FORMS OF THE **SAME EVIL**.

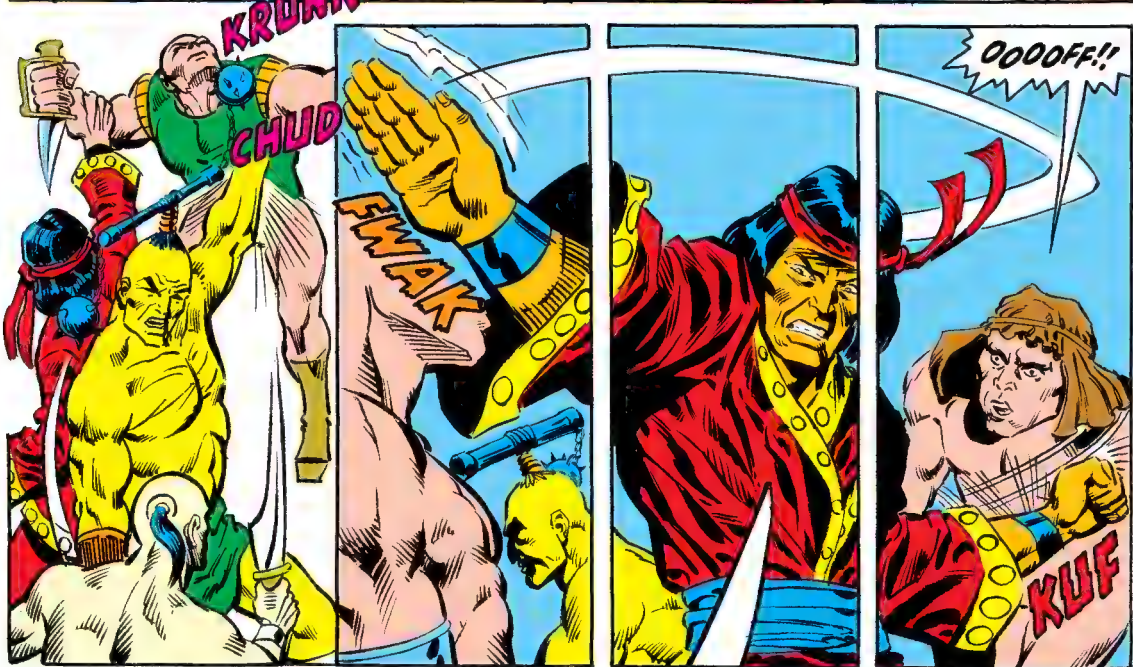
YES.

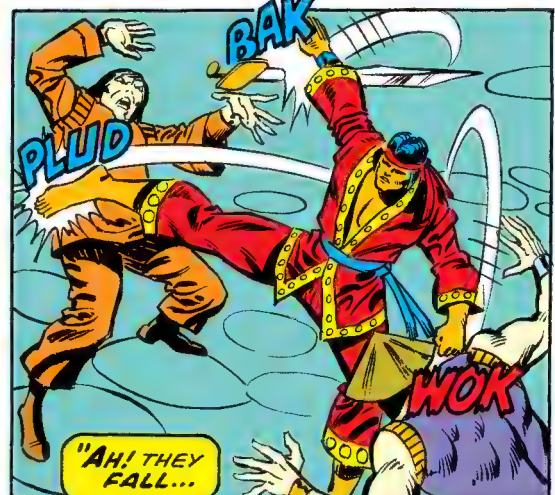
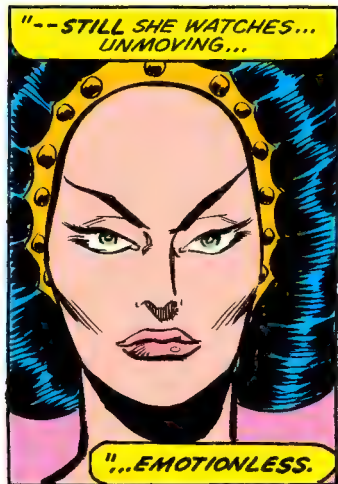
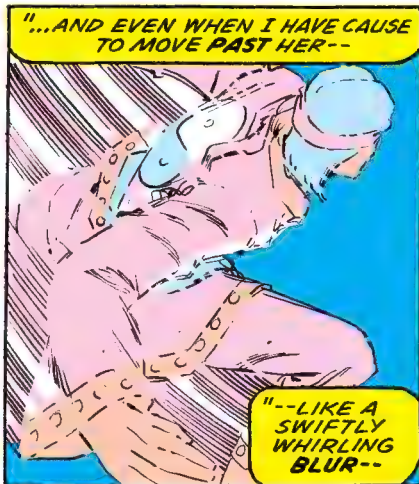
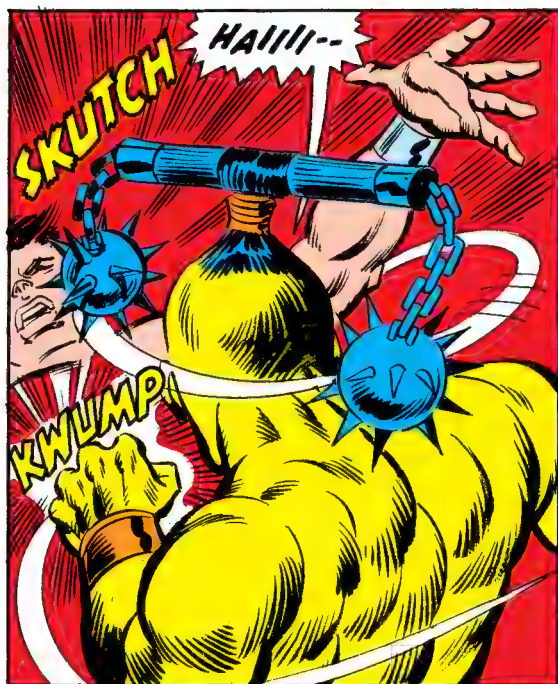
VERY WELL, LITTLE SPIRIT...











"...AS ALL OF THEM HAVE FALLEN, IN WAVES OF BLOOD LARGELY SPILLED BY THE CONFUSION OF THEIR OWN WEAPONS. MY SISTER, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN GONE FOR SEVERAL MINUTES NOW..."

WHY DID YOU JOIN ME, SHADOW-STALKER?

WHEN LAST WE MET, YOU DEFEATED ME. IN ANOTHER CONTEST, I MIGHT DEFEAT YOU, SHANG-CHI...

BUT TOGETHER, WE COULD FACE ANYONE WITHOUT FEAR OF DEFEAT.

THE LEGION OF SI-FAN HAS BEEN DIVIDED BETWEEN FATHER AND DAUGHTER-- BUT EACH FACTION FOLLOWS BLINDLY, MERELY BECAUSE THEY FEAR THEIR LEADERS. BUT WE COULD COMMAND THEIR RESPECT, SHANG-CHI-- WE COULD BECOME THE LEADERS TO WHICH THE SI-FAN WOULD RALLY AS NEVER BEFORE. AND TOGETHER, WE COULD DEFEAT BOTH FU MANCHU AND FAH LO SUEE.

FOR WHAT REASON, SHADOW-STALKER? TO END THEIR EVIL?

TO END THEIR LIVES--AND TO WIELD THEIR COMBINED POWER AS OUR OWN.

THEN MY ANSWER IS NO, SHADOW-STALKER. I DO NOT SEEK POWER.

I SEEK ONLY PEACE.

THEN I WILL LEAVE YOU IN PEACE, SON OF FU MANCHU... FOR NOW.

BUT WHEN NEXT WE MEET, THERE WILL BE NO PEACE ON EARTH WHICH MAY PRESERVE BOTH OUR LIVES.

THAT IS YOUR CHOICE, SHADOW-STALKER, AND ONE I REGRET...

BUT YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT I WILL NEXT GREET YOU IN THE SPIRIT WITH WHICH YOU GREET ME.

FAREWELL, SHANG-CHI...

YOU WILL FIND THE ENGLISHMAN DOWN IN THE--



"--DUNGEONS.

NAYLAND
SMITH--!

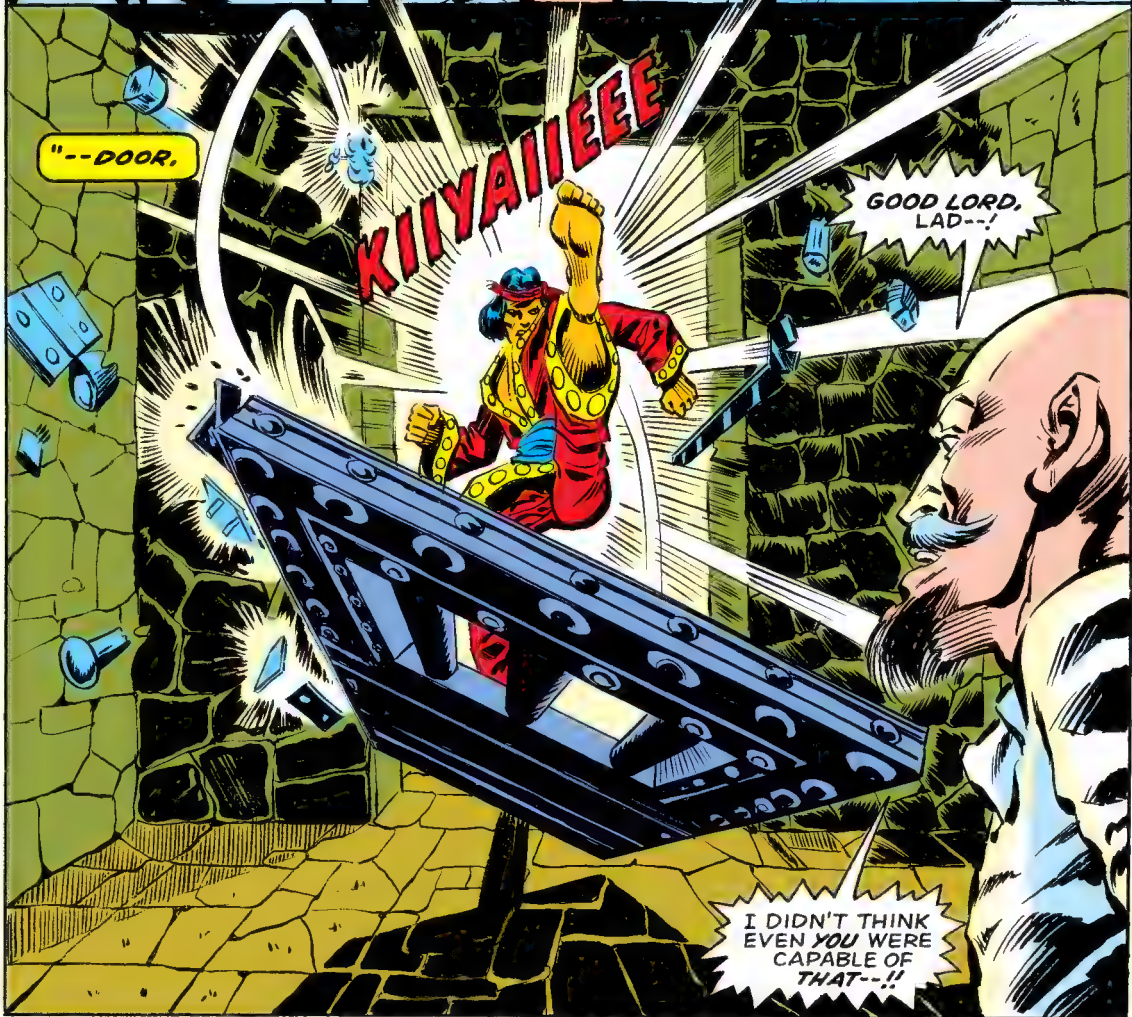


SHANG-
CHI...

SHANG-CHI--
IS THAT
YOU--??



STAND **BACK**,
SMITH...AWAY
FROM THE--

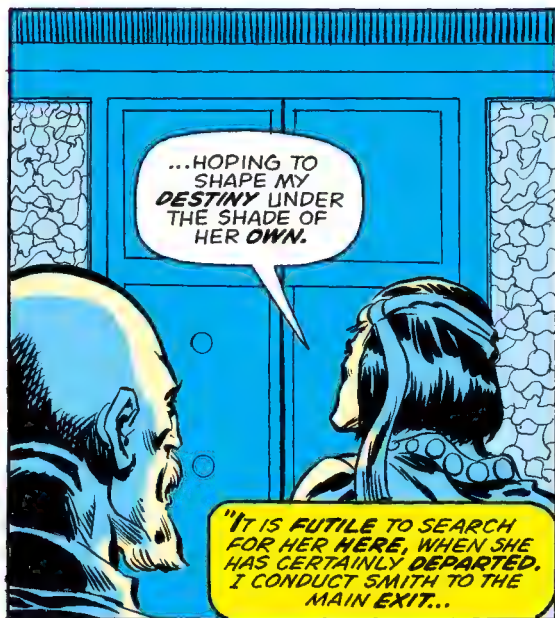
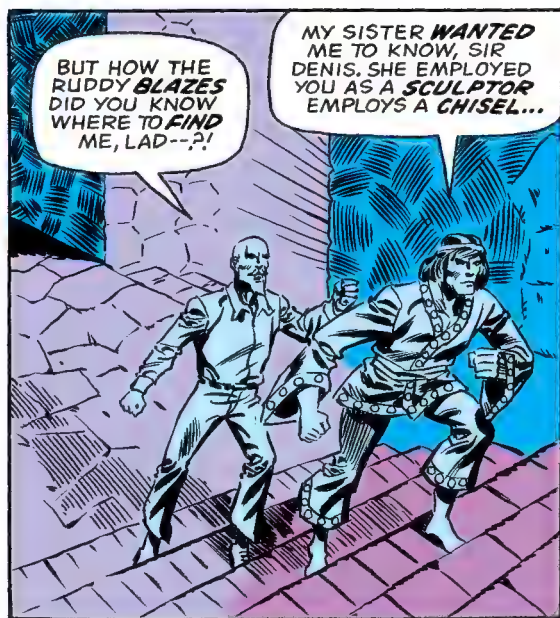


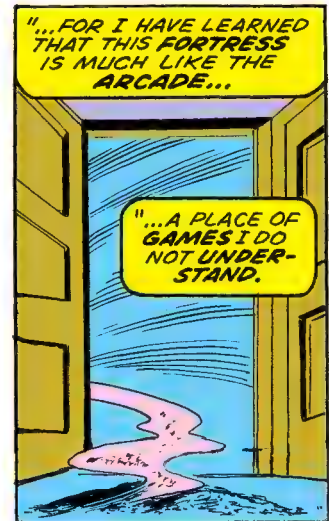
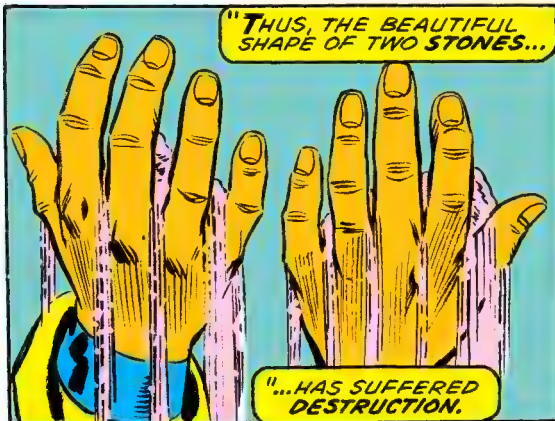
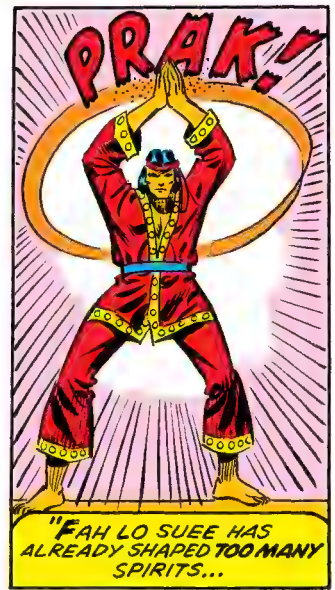
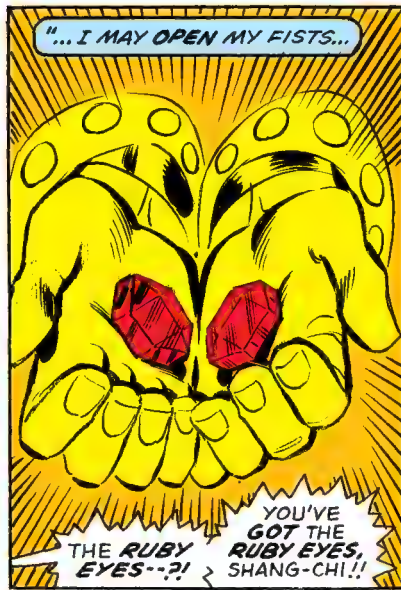
"--DOOR.

KIIYAIIEEE

GOOD LORD,
LAD--!

I DIDN'T THINK
EVEN **YOU** WERE
CAPABLE OF
THAT--!!





NEXT ISSUE: PAUL GULACY RETAINS DOUG MOENCH TO LAUNCH A DYNAMIC NEW DIRECTION FOR SHANG-CHI, A UNIQUELY INNOVATIVE CYCLE OF SLICKLY BLISTERING ACTION AND DAZZLINGLY GLOSSY EXCITEMENT! IT ALL BEGINS WITH THE 3-PART MAGNUM OPUS RESPECTIVELY ENTITLED: 1) THE CRYSTAL CONNECTION; 2) SNOWBUSTER; AND 3) A GULF OF LIONS! **BE HERE!!**

GIANT-SIZE MASTER
OF KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



4 JUNE
02927

50¢

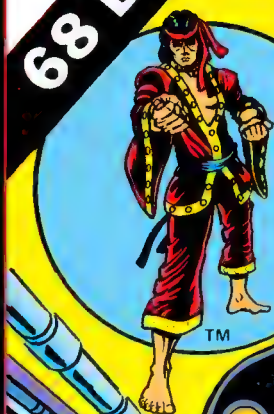
©

68 BIG PAGES

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU™

NEW!

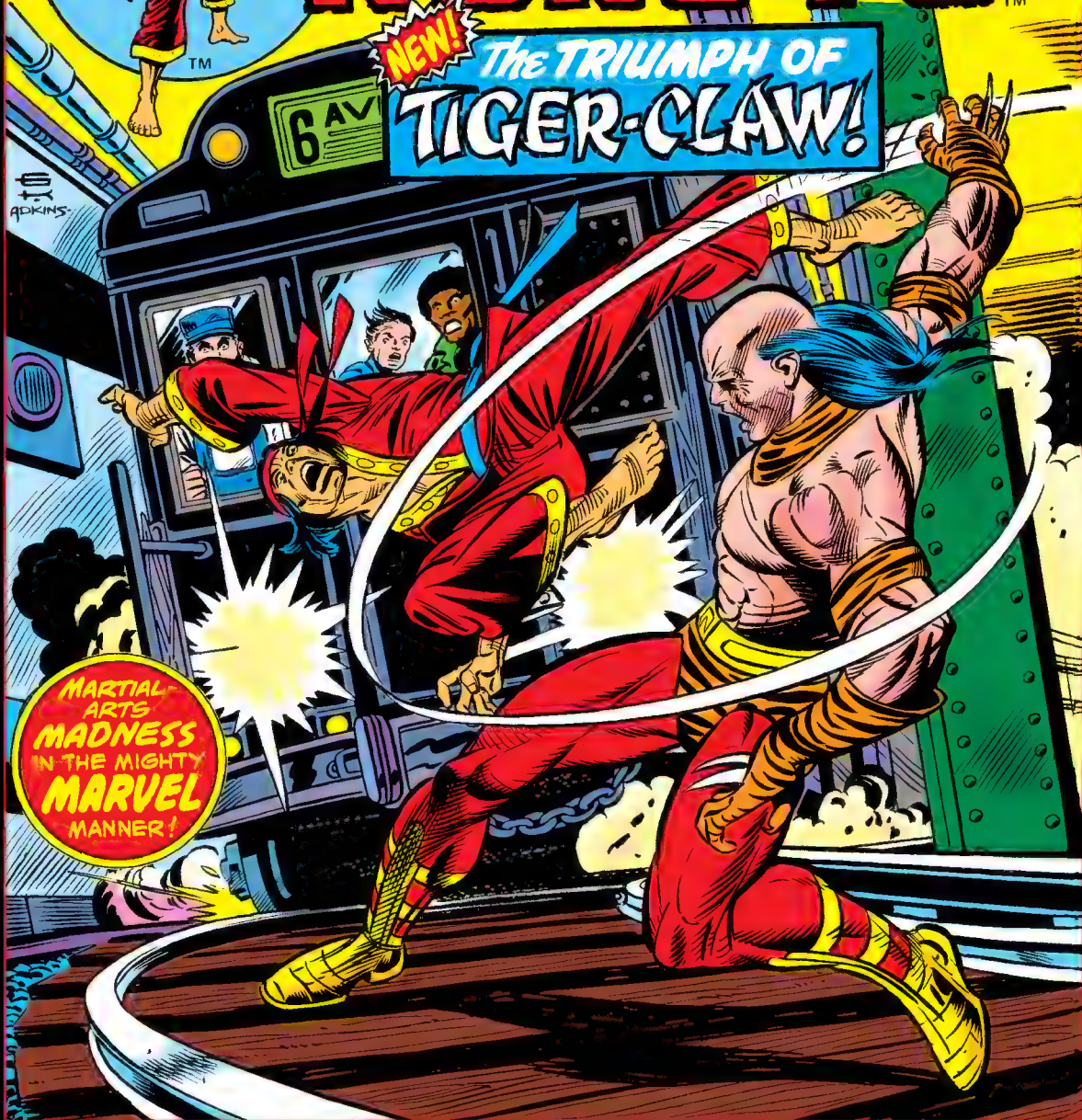
THE TRIUMPH OF
TIGER-CLAW!



TM

ADKINS

MARTIAL-
ARTS
MADNESS
IN THE MIGHTY
MARVEL
MANNER!



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

WHY A **TIGER-CLAW?!**

"I HAVE COMPLETED MY BUSINESS IN THIS SECTION OF NEW YORK CITY--

YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO GO THIS FAST?

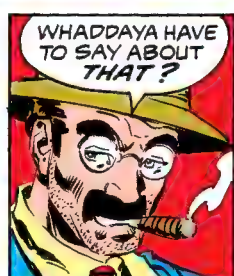
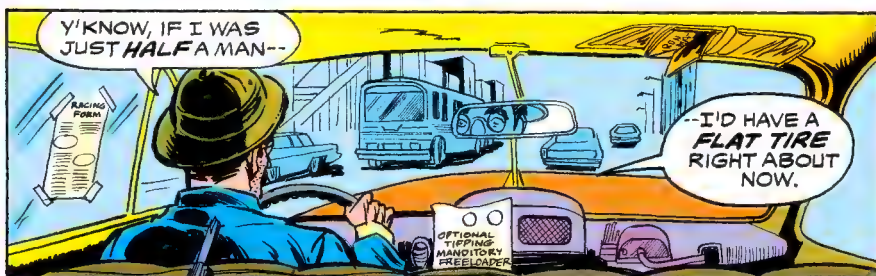
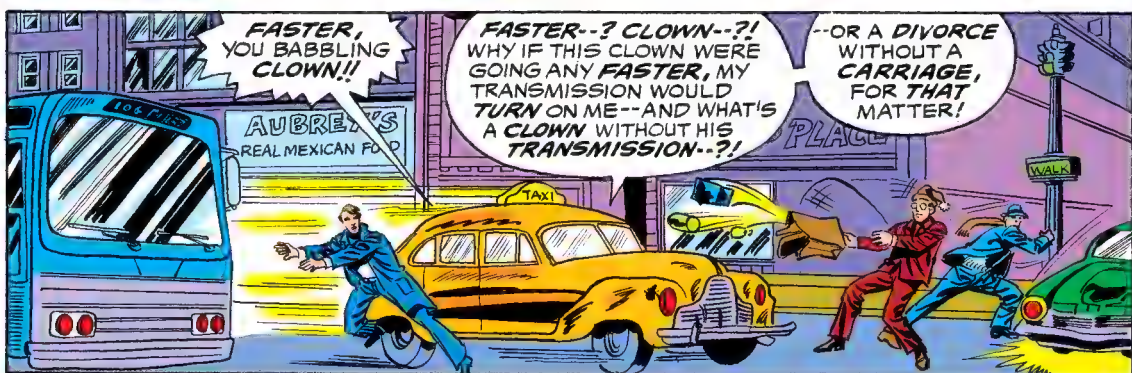
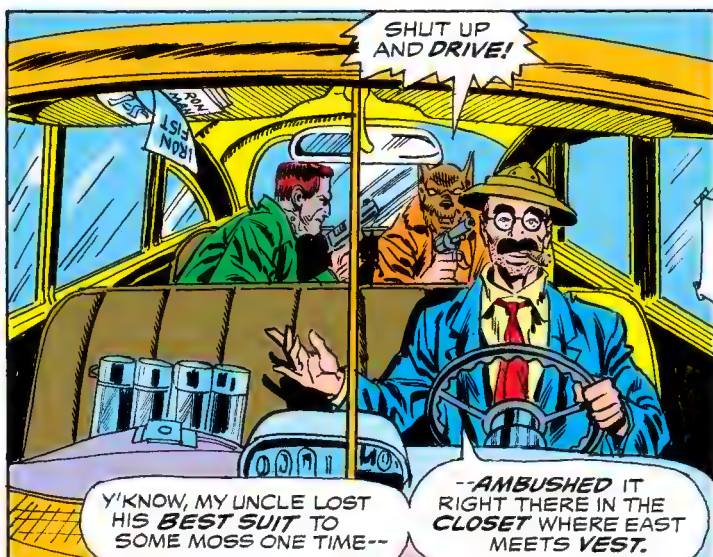
FASTER!!

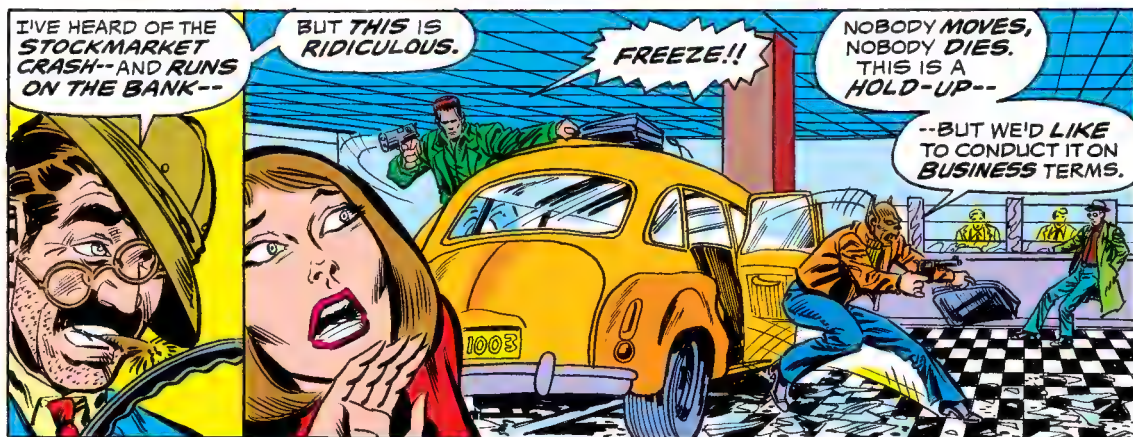
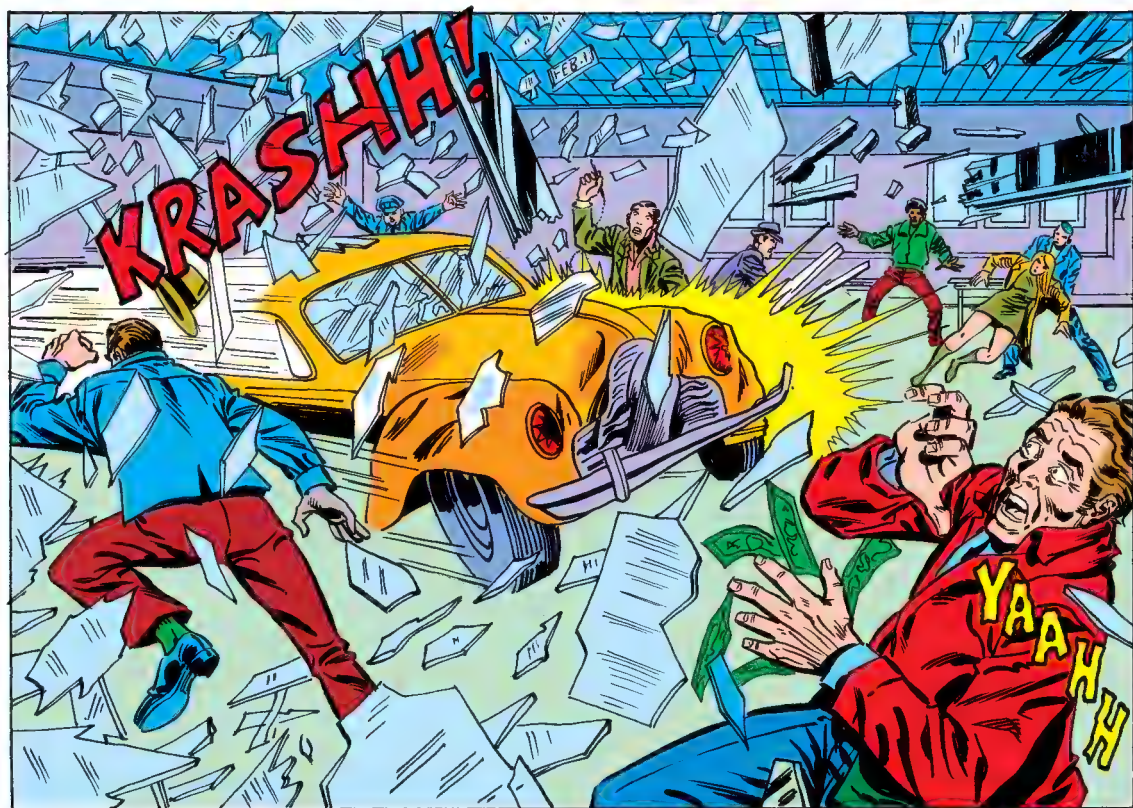
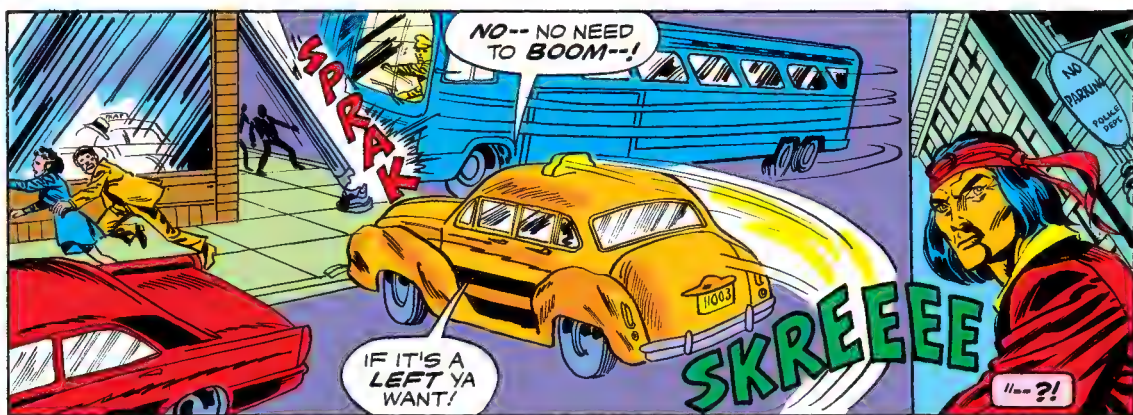
"--AND HAVE STEPPED INTO A STREET OF MADNESS.

WITHOUT DOUBT, THE MOST BIZARRE, OFFBEAT, THRILL-PACKED SHANG-CHI EPIC YET! COMPLIMENTS OF:

DOUG MOENCH • WRITER
KEITH POLLARD • ARTIST
SAL TRAPANI • INKER
RAY HOLLOWAY • LETTERER
JANICE COHEN • COLORIST
LEN WEIN • EDITOR

FEATURING SUPPORTING CHARACTERS CREATED BY **SAX ROHMER**







TH--THIS IS
CRAZY--!

YOU'LL
NEVER
GET AWAY
WITH IT--!



AND YOU'LL
NEVER GET AWAY
WITH YOUR **HEAD**
IF YOU DON'T
SHUT UP,
FATSO!

UNDERSTAND?

Y-YES--I
UNDER-
STAND.



GOOD. THEN THE
REST OF YOU--
EVERYONE WHO
JUST CASHED A
CHECK-- CAN START
FILLIN' THE
SATCHEL. FAST.



THE IS AN
OUTRAGE--!
HOODLUMS
LIKE YOU
SHOULD BE--

STUFF IT, BOZO--RIGHT
INTO THE SATCHEL, LIKE
ALL THE OTHER NICE
PEOPLE.

AND YOU **SHAKING**
LEAVES WHO CALL YOUR-
SELVES TELLERS-- IF YOU
DON'T EMPTY THOSE CASH
DRAWERS WITHIN
SIXTY SECONDS--

--I'M
GONNA
START
EMPTYING
THIS GUN.

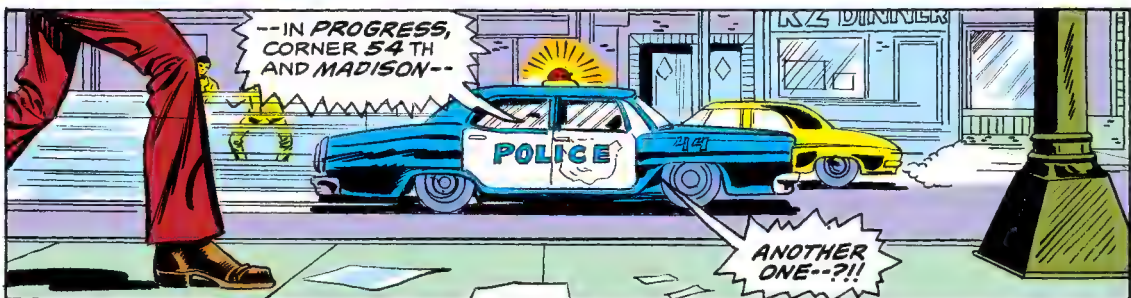
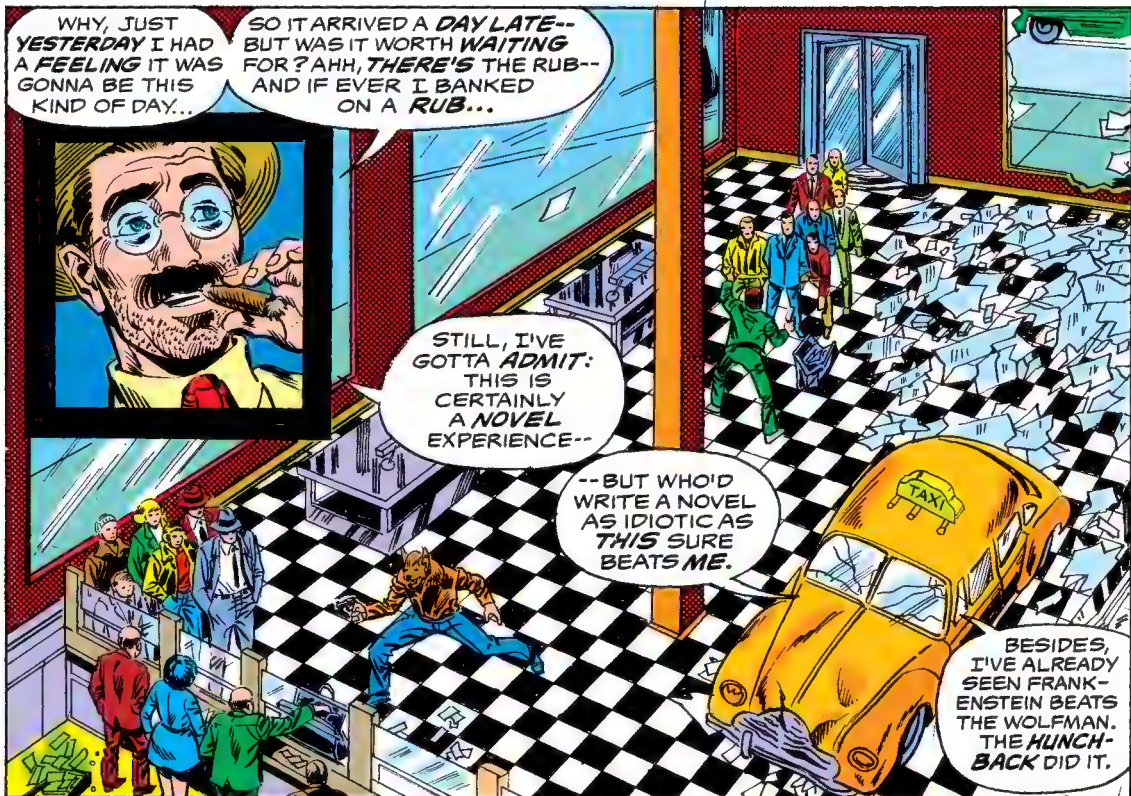


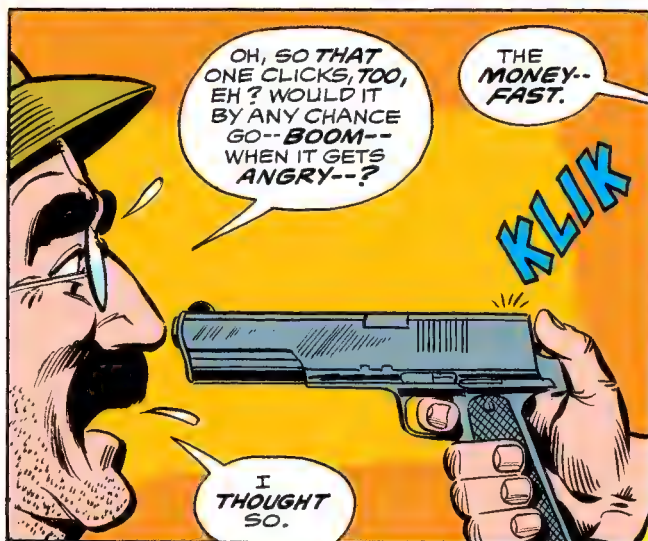
WATCHES AND
RINGS TOO--
AND HURRY
IT UP.

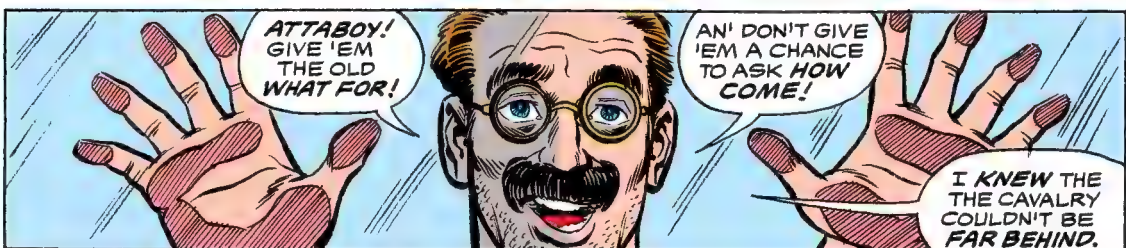
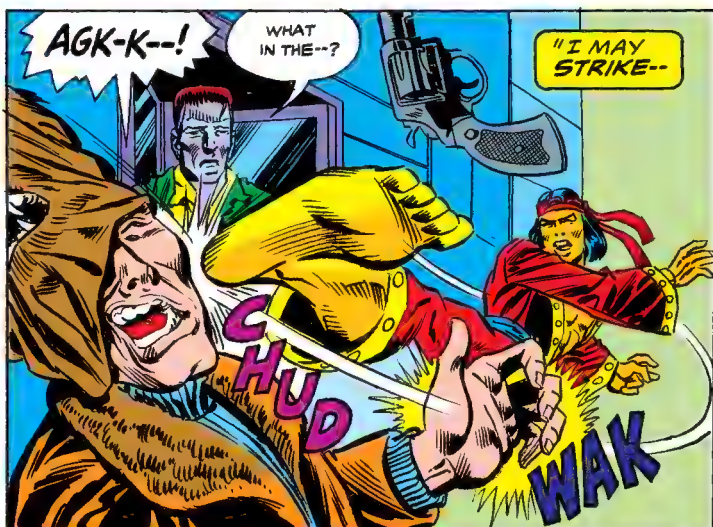


THAT'S RIGHT--FAST AND
EASY--JUST KEEP ON
STASHIN'--
WORK UP A REGULAR ELBOW-
RHYTHM THERE--

EVERYTHING
BUT THE **FIVES**
AND **SINGLES.**



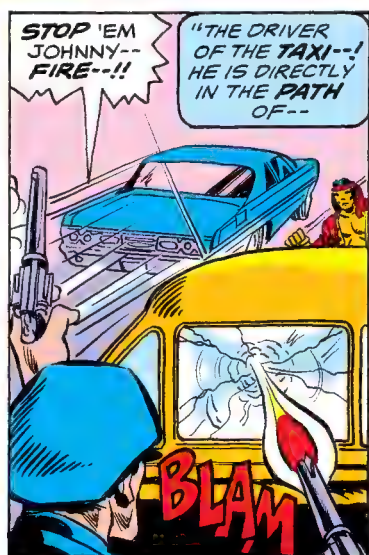
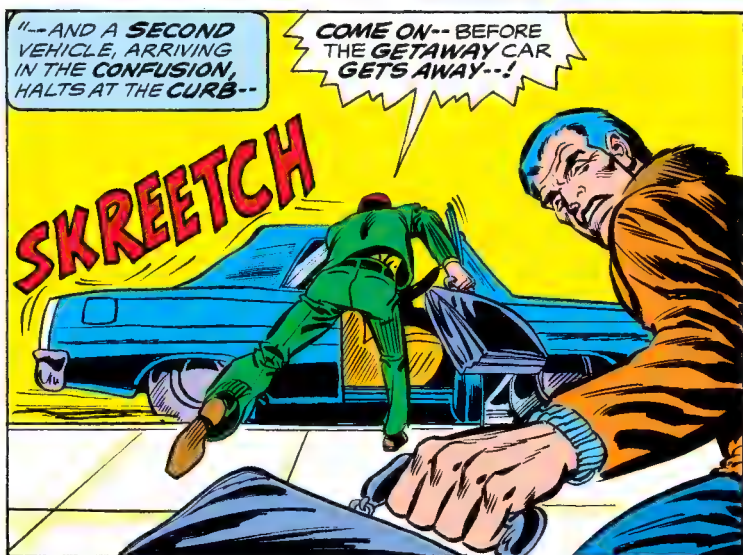
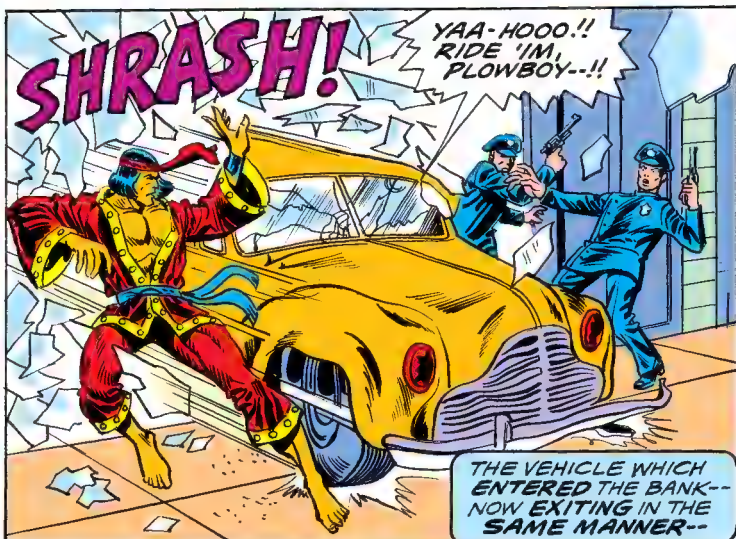


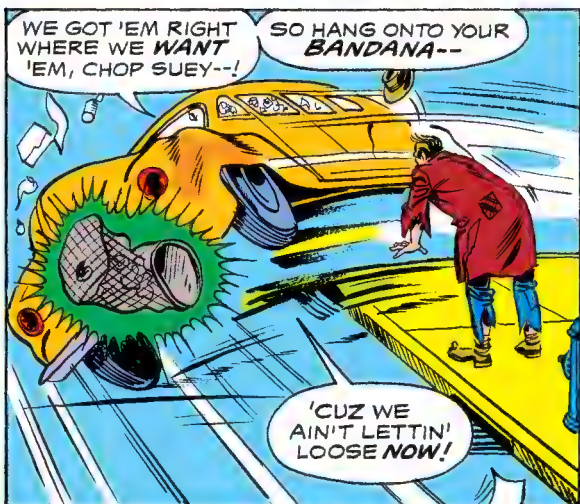
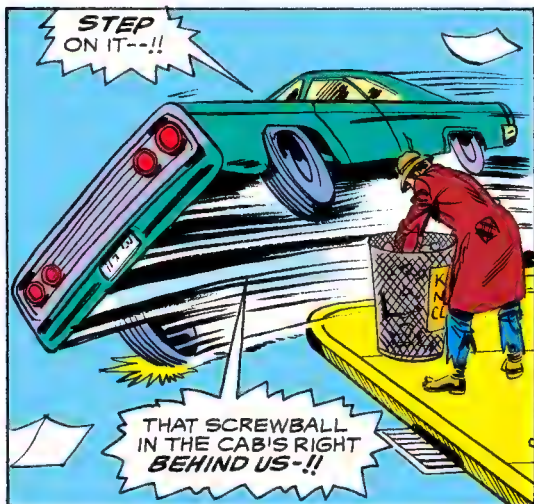
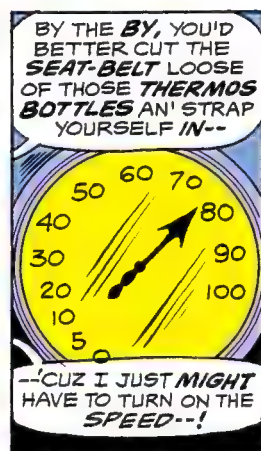
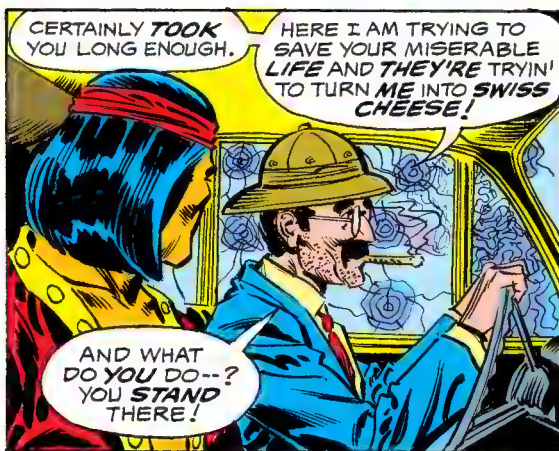
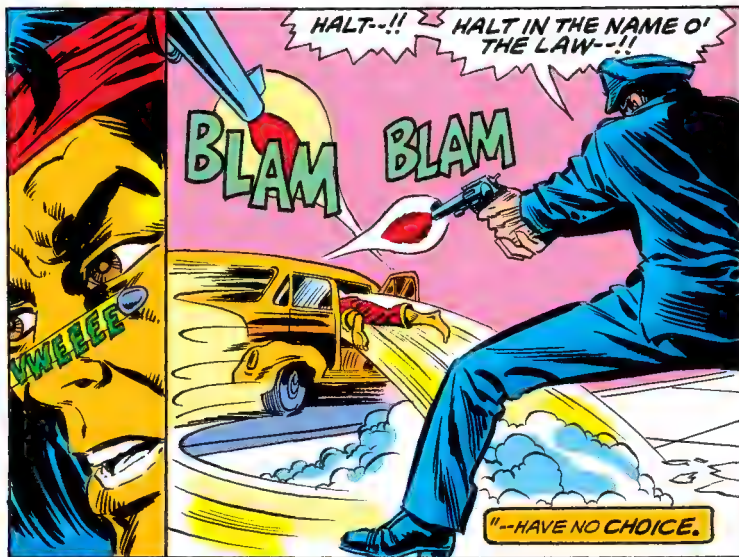


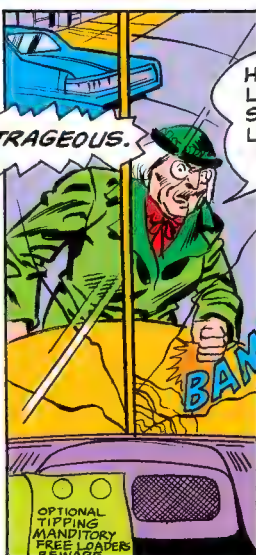
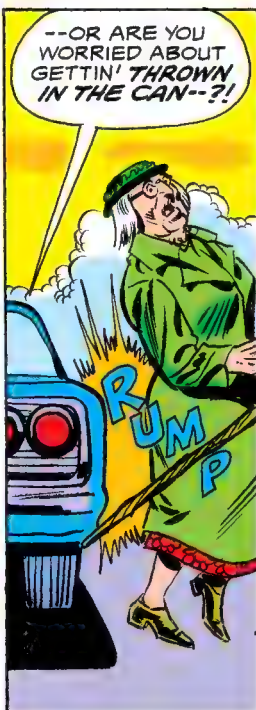
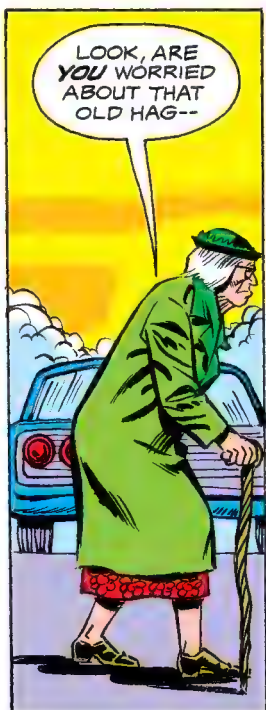
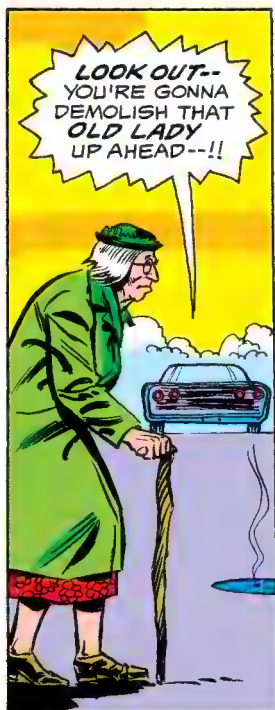
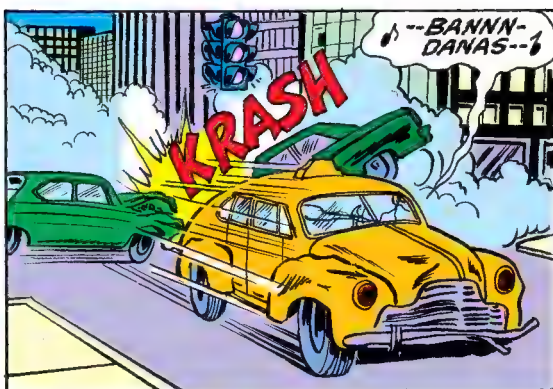
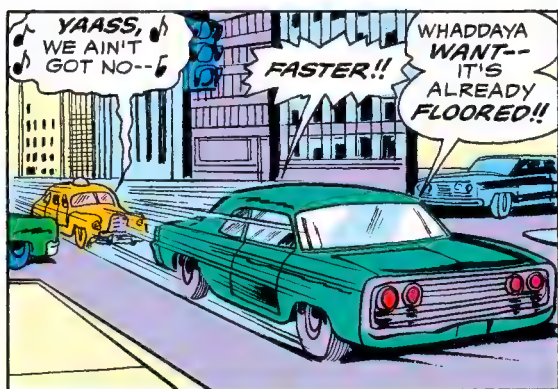


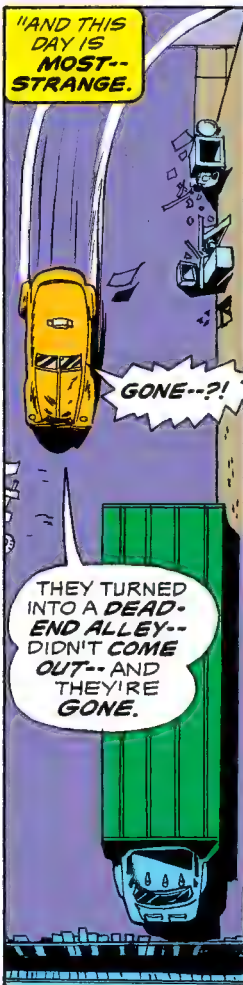


AND ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY. GOTTA HELP THAT CHOP SUEY MANIAC--





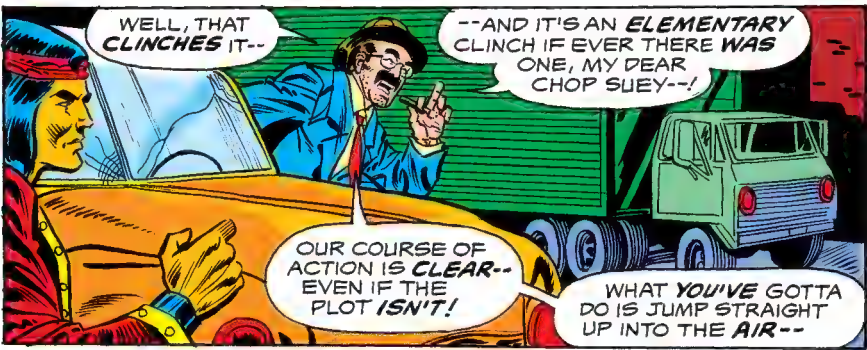




"AND THIS DAY IS MOST-- STRANGE."

GONE--?!

THEY TURNED INTO A DEAD-END ALLEY-- DIDN'T COME OUT-- AND THEY'RE GONE.



WELL, THAT CLINCHES IT--

--AND IT'S AN *ELEMENTARY* CLINCH IF EVER THERE WAS ONE, MY DEAR CHOP SUEY--!

OUR COURSE OF ACTION IS *CLEAR*-- EVEN IF THE PLOT *ISN'T*!

WHAT *YOU'VE* GOTTA DO IS JUMP STRAIGHT UP INTO THE *AIR*--

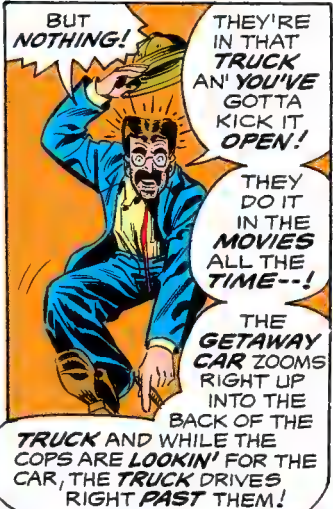


--AND GIVE THE BACK OF THAT *VAN* ONE OF YOUR *BRUCE LEE KICKS*.



UNTIL *NOW*, I HAVE SAID *NOTHING* TO YOU.

BUT--



BUT *NOTHING*!

THEY'RE IN THAT *TRUCK* AN' *YOU'VE* GOTTA KICK IT *OPEN*!

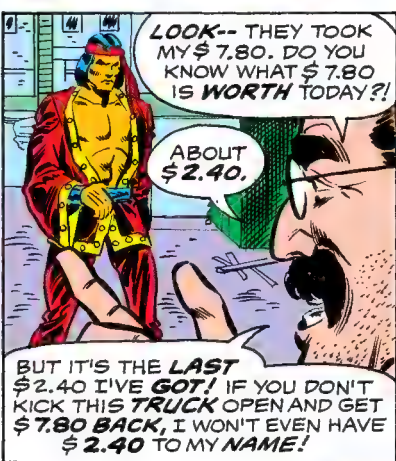
THEY DO IT IN THE *MOVIES* ALL THE *TIME*--!

THE *GETAWAY CAR* ZOOMS RIGHT UP INTO THE BACK OF THE *TRUCK* AND WHILE THE *COPS* ARE *LOOKIN'* FOR THE *CAR*, THE *TRUCK* DRIVES RIGHT *PAST* THEM!



THE *TRUCK* IS NOT MINE TO *DESTROY*.

MAYBE *NOT*, BUT THEY'RE GONNA COME OUT AND DESTROY *US* IF YOU DON'T *HURRY*!



LOOK-- THEY TOOK MY \$ 7.80. DO YOU KNOW WHAT \$ 7.80 IS WORTH TODAY?!

ABOUT \$ 2.40.

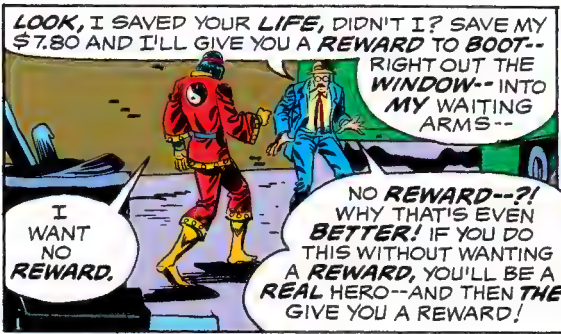
BUT IT'S THE *LAST* \$ 2.40 I'VE *GOT*! IF YOU DON'T KICK THIS *TRUCK* OPEN AND GET \$ 7.80 *BACK*, I WON'T EVEN HAVE \$ 2.40 TO MY *NAME*!



ON TOP OF *THAT* THEY'LL TAKE MY *CAB* AWAY FOR LOSING AN ENTIRE MORNING'S *RECEIPTS*!

I HEAR NO *MOVEMENT* WITHIN THE *TRUCK*!

THEY'RE *LYING LOW*, YOU DUMMY! *HORRORS*, MAN, THEY SHOT MY *JACK-IN-THE-BOX* IN *COLD WOOD* WITH NO *QUALMS WHATSOEVER*! WHY, THEY'RE *RUTHLESS*-- AND EVEN *YOU'D* TURN *ROTTEN* WITHOUT *RUTH*!



LOOK, I SAVED YOUR *LIFE*, DIDN'T I? SAVE MY \$ 7.80 AND I'LL GIVE YOU A *REWARD* TO *BOOT*-- RIGHT OUT THE *WINDOW*-- INTO MY WAITING *ARMS*--

I WANT NO *REWARD*.

NO *REWARD*--?! WHY THAT'S EVEN *BETTER*! IF YOU DO THIS WITHOUT WANTING A *REWARD*, YOU'LL BE A *REAL HERO*--AND THEN *THEY'LL* GIVE YOU A *REWARD*!



"PERHAPS THE MAN WILL CEASE *TALKING*--

"--IF I AID HIM--



KIYIIII!!

SEE?! I TOLD YA--!

THAT'S THE GETAWAY CAR-- AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS FOOLIN'--

BUT THEY'RE NOT HERE--! SO OBVIOUSLY THEY'VE ALREADY MADE THEIR GETAWAY-- AND LEFT THE CAR BEHIND--

M-HMM-- JUST AS I EXPECTORATED--

--NOTHING BUT A FINELY CONGEALED ROUGE DESIGNED TO DERAIL AND OTHER-WISE SIDETRACK US--

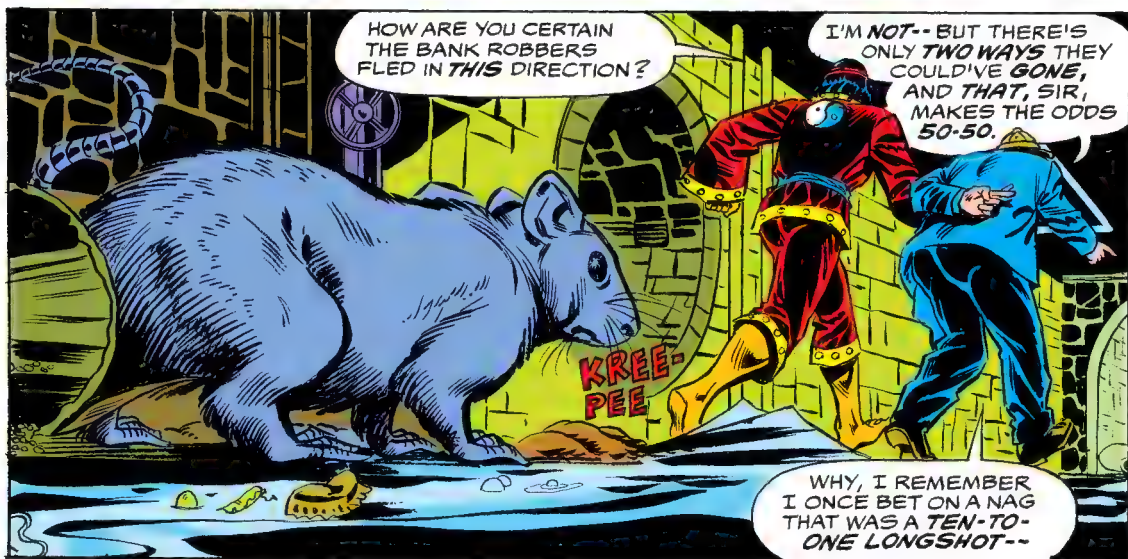
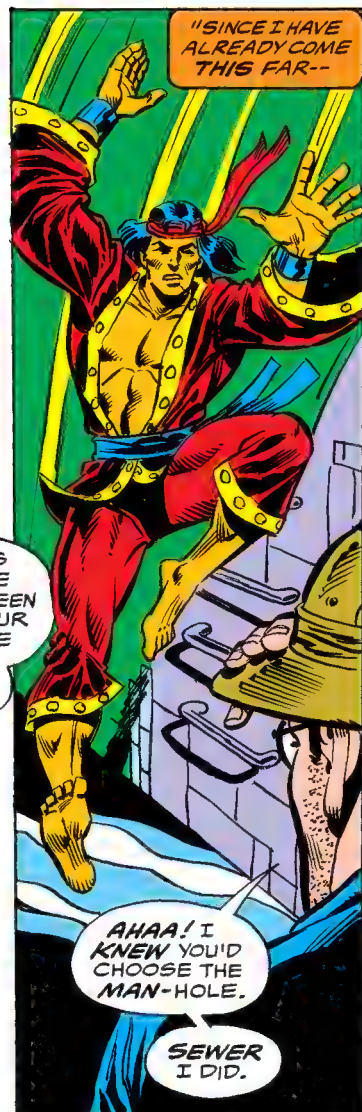
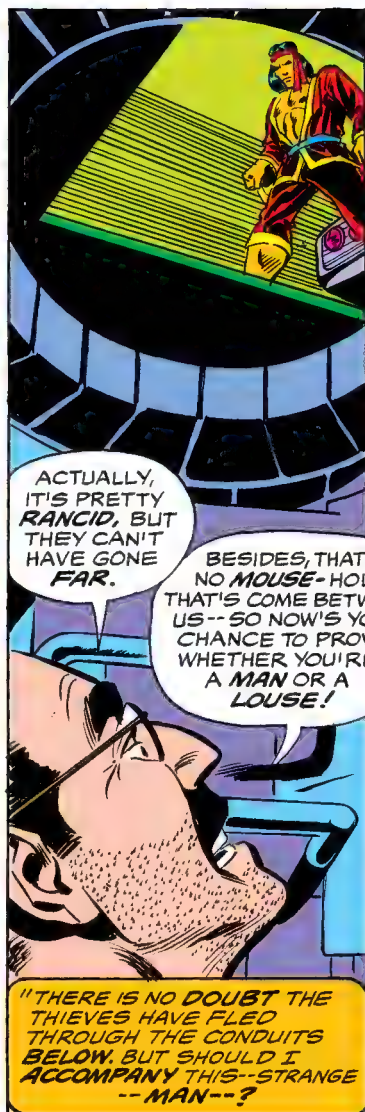
--OR IS THAT A FINELY CONCEALED RUSE-- YES, I DO BELIEVED IT /S-- BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT STILL BOTHERS ME--

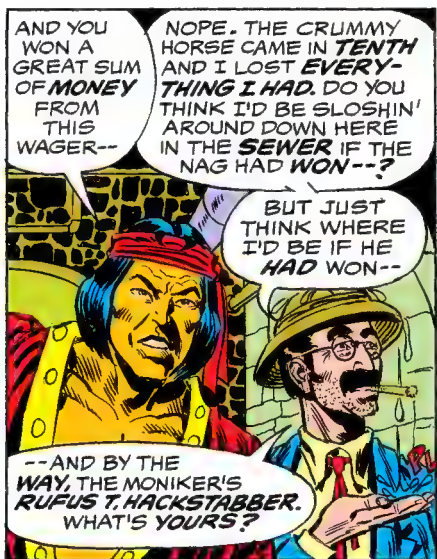
IF THEY WERE LOCKED UP INSIDE THIS TRUCK--

-- THEN WHERE THE DEVIL COULD THEY HAVE--

YEEE-IKES!!

SPLOSH





AND YOU WON A GREAT SUM OF **MONEY** FROM THIS WAGER--

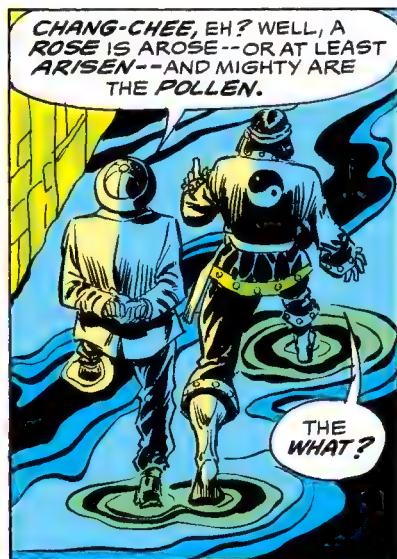
NOPE. THE CRUMMY HORSE CAME IN **TENTH** AND I LOST **EVERY-THING I HAD**. DO YOU THINK I'D BE SLOSHIN' AROUND DOWN HERE IN THE **SEWER** IF THE NAG HAD WON--?

BUT JUST THINK WHERE I'D BE IF HE **HAD WON--**

--AND BY THE WAY, THE MONIKER'S **RUFUS T. HACKSTABBER**. WHAT'S YOURS?

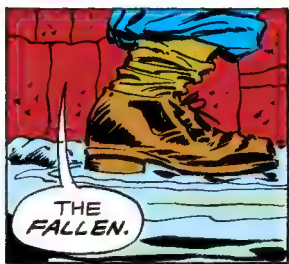


SHANG-CHI.



CHANG-CHEE, EH? WELL, A **ROSE IS AROSE--** OR AT LEAST **ARISEN--** AND MIGHTY ARE THE **POLLEN**.

THE **WHAT?**



THE **FALLEN**.



WHAT'D YOU **THINK** I SAID?



NOTHING.



WELL, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY **RIGHT**, **CHANG-SHEE**, BUT DON'T LET IT GET **AROUND**.

THE VERY **WALLS** HAVE **EARS--** AND THEY MIGHT STOP **LISTENING** IF THEY FOUND OUT I WAS SAYING **NOTHING** AND THEN WHERE WOULD I BE, I ASK YOU--?

PROBABLY OUT IN SOME **GLUE-FACTORY** WITH THAT LOUSY HORSE WHO BUCKED ME RIGHT OUT OF THE **SADDLE OF RICHES** AND INTO A **TAXI-CAB!**

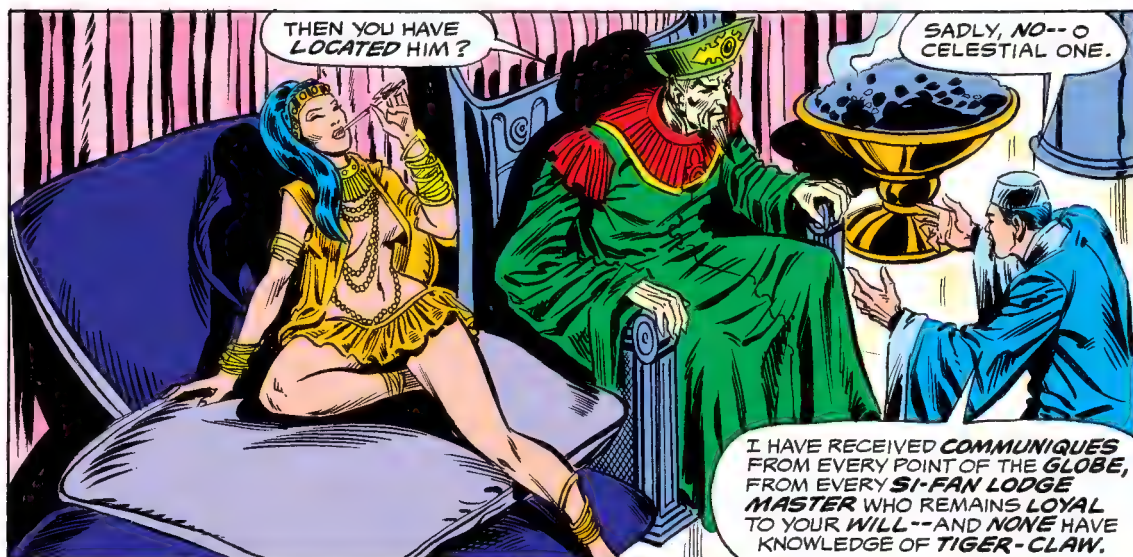
AHH, WHAT A **LIFE!**



I REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR **AUDIENCE**, O CELESTIAL **FU MANCHU**.

SPEAK.

MY REPORT CONCERNS **TIGER-CLAW**, THE **SHADOW-THIEF** AND MASTER ASSASSIN OF WHOM YOU HAVE **INQUIRED**.



THEN YOU HAVE
LOCATED HIM?

SADLY, NO-- O
CELESTIAL ONE.

I HAVE RECEIVED **COMMUNIQES**
FROM EVERY POINT OF THE **GLOBE**,
FROM EVERY **SI-FAN LODGE**
MASTER WHO REMAINS **LOYAL**
TO YOUR **WILL**--AND **NONE** HAVE
KNOWLEDGE OF **TIGER-CLAW**.

THEN PERHAPS HE **TOO** HAS
DEFECTED TO MY **DAUGHTER'S**
GROWING ARMY OF **SI-FAN**--

--AND NOW
STANDS WITH
FAH LO SUEE
AGAINST
ME*--AS
DOES MY SON,
SHANG-CHI--

*SEE ISSUES 27 & 28 OF
M. O.K.F. MONTHLY MAG.
--LEN.

GO NOW--WITH A FORCE
OF SI-FAN WARRIORS--

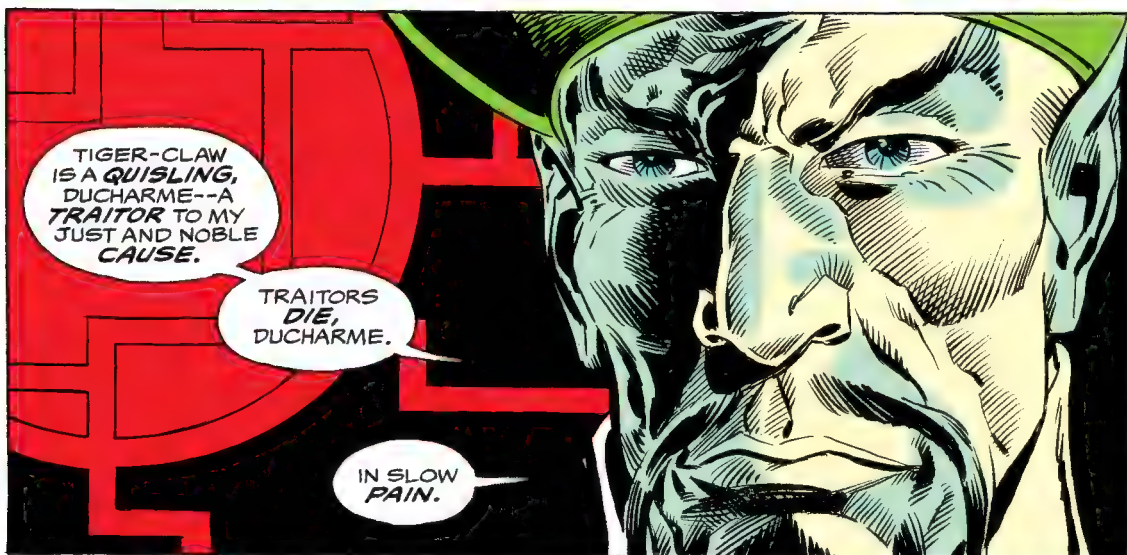


--AND FIND
THIS ONE NAMED
TIGER-CLAW.

YES,
GLORIOUS
FU MANCHU.

MY LORD,
IF THIS
UNWORTHY
ONE MAY
ASK--

--WHAT
DESTINY
HAVE YOU
APPOINTED
FOR **TIGER-CLAW**--?



TIGER-CLAW
IS A **QUISLING**,
DUCHARME--A
TRAITOR TO MY
JUST AND NOBLE
CAUSE.

TRAITORS
DIE,
DUCHARME.

IN SLOW
PAIN.

"THE SOFT ECHO OF HARD SHOES ON HARDER STONE ALERTS ME TO THEIR PRESENCE EVEN BEFORE WE PASS THROUGH THE CONDUIT--"

GADZOOKS, IT'S THEM!



SO THAT'S WHY YA TOLD ME TO SHUT MY FLAP. AREN'T YOU THE SLY ONE?

WELL, I GOT NEWS FOR YA, CHANG-SHEE--

--THEY WENT THATAWAY.



COME ON. I CAN FEEL THAT \$7.80 BURNING A HOLE IN MY POCKET ALREADY--

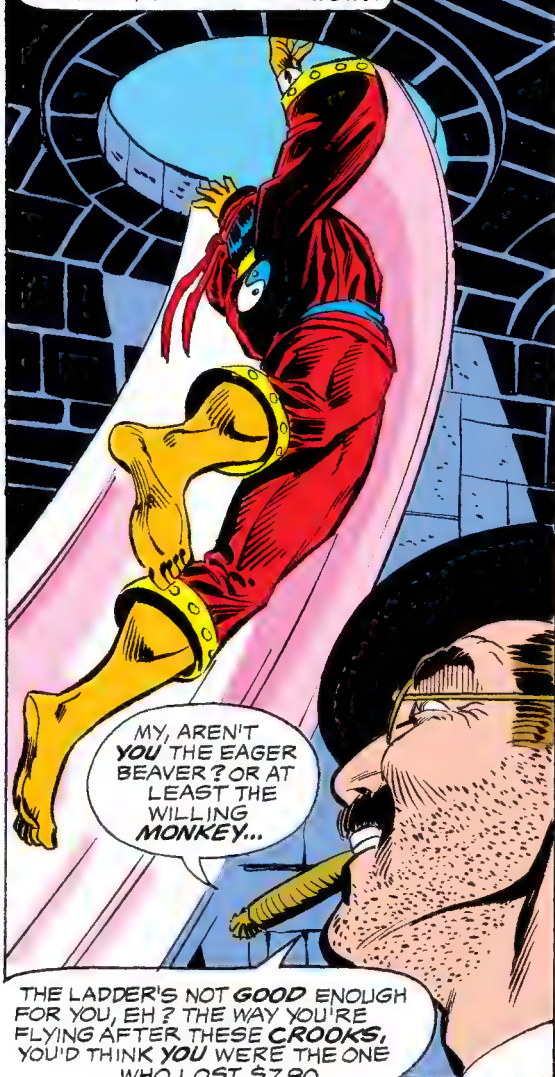


--AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO SPEND IT BEFORE WE CATCH THE MALAPROPRIATING MISCREANTS, NOW WOULD YOU? THAT'D BE LIKE CRACKING OUR EGGSHells BEFORE THE CHICKENS SCRATCH!



"A SOUND-- ROARING-- RUSHING--"

--I MUST LEARN ITS ORIGIN.

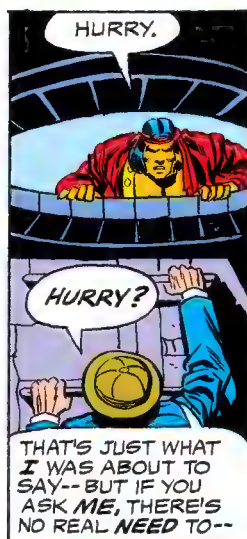


MY, AREN'T YOU THE EAGER BEAVER? OR AT LEAST THE WILLING MONKEY...

THE LADDER'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU, EH? THE WAY YOU'RE FLYING AFTER THESE CROOKS, YOU'D THINK YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LOST \$7.80.



WHICH REMINDS ME, IF WE DON'T--



HURRY.

HURRY?

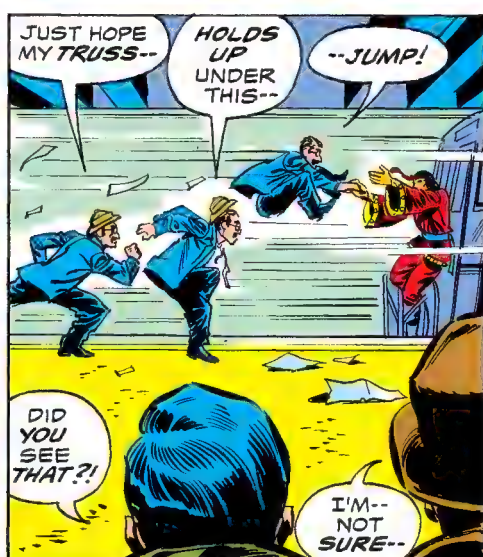
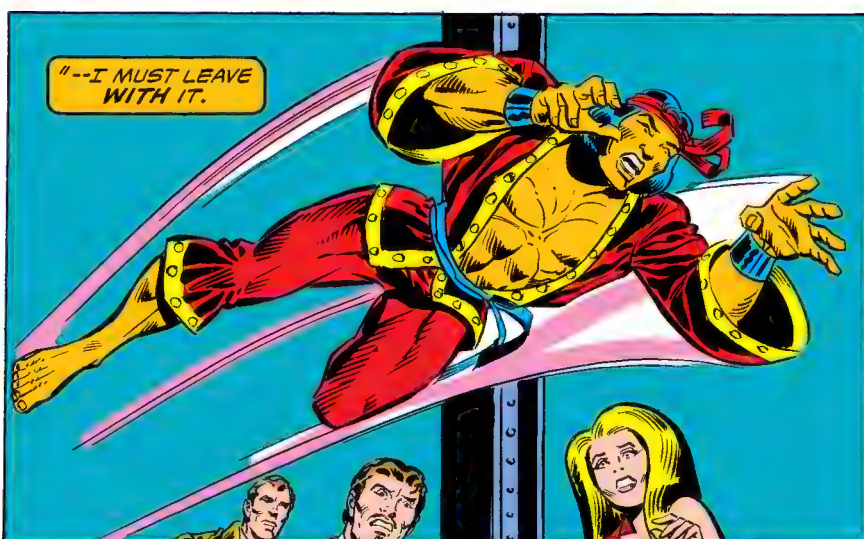
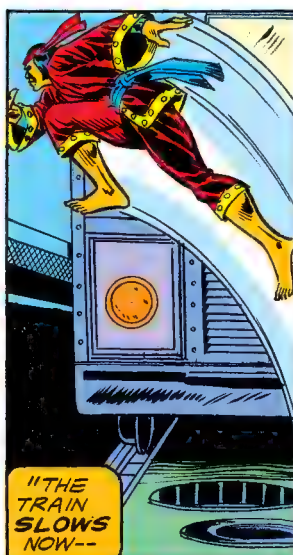
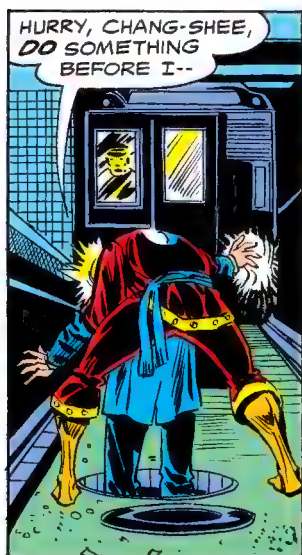
THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO SAY-- BUT IF YOU ASK ME, THERE'S NO REAL NEED TO--

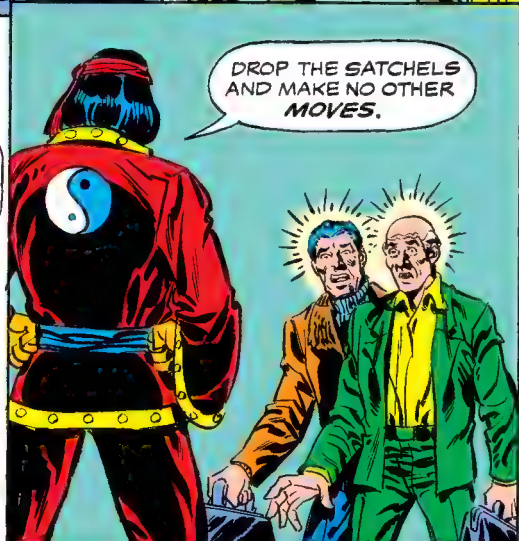
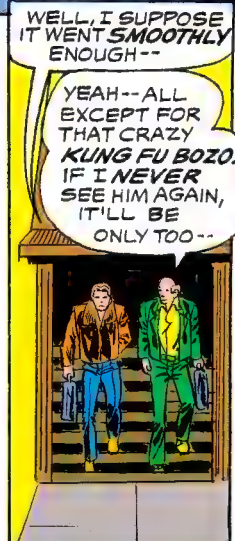
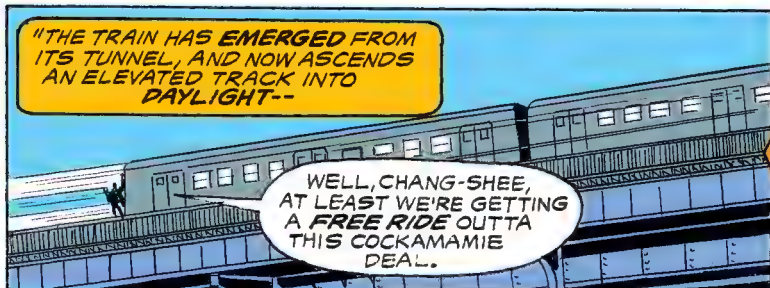
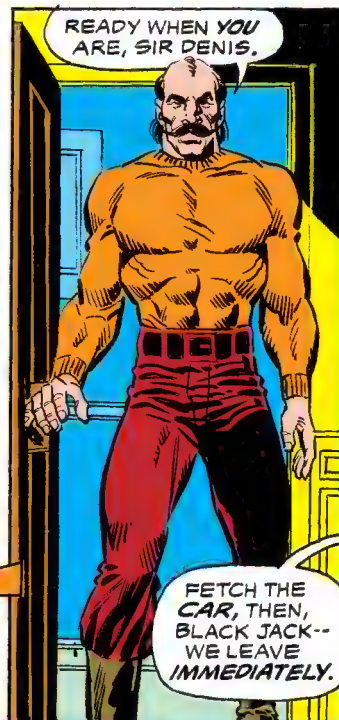
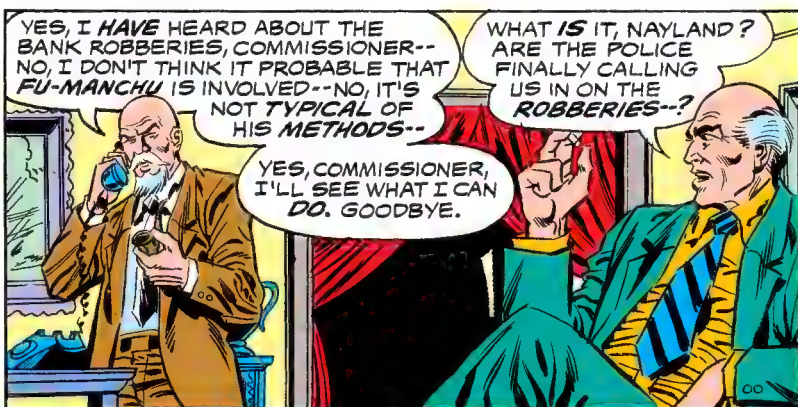


--YIKES!!

WHY DIDN'T YA SAY SO--?!!

THIS'S GOTTA BE THE MOST DANGEROUS HOLE I EVER CRAWLED OUT OF--!





"TOGETHER, THEY ATTACK FROM BOTH SIDES!!"



--AND NOW FALL TO BOTH SIDES, TOGETHER.

WELL, I GUESS WE SHOWED THEM, EH, CHANG-SHEE? AND LISTEN-- I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I NEVER COULD'VE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

YES, YOU CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS AID IN CATCHING THEM. BUT WHY QUIBBLE WHEN I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING--DO YOU EVER GET BUNIONS ON YOUR FEET FROM ALL THAT KICKING?

STILL, IF YOU KEEP WORKING OUT LIKE THAT, I BET YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LASH OUT WITH YOUR LITTLE PINKIE AND FELL A TREE WITHOUT EVEN CALLING ON A SINGLE BUNION--OR EVEN PAUL BUNYAN FOR THAT MATTER.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'VE GOT A DATE WITH \$7.80--



AH, YES INDEED.
ROOTING FOR THE
ROOT OF ALL PEOPLE--
MY FAVORITE--

HUH?

EMPTY? THE
BAGS ARE EMPTY?
MY \$7.80 IS GONE?
I SAY: GONE??

LEMME AT 'EM! LEMME
AT 'EM!! I'LL TEAR 'EM
LIMB FROM LIMB! STEAL
MY \$7.80, WILL THEY?!
THE INCORRIGIBLE
FIENDS--!!

WHERE
IS THE
STOLEN
MONEY?



STILL IN THE GETAWAY CAR--
IN THE BACK OF AN EMPTY
VAN-- TO BE PICKED UP
BY THE GUY WHO HIRED
US-- DIVIDED LATER--

WHO
HIRED
YOU?



YOU MUST KNOW HIM.
TIGER-CLAW'S THE
SAME KIND
AS YOU--

SHUT UP,
YOU FOOL--!
HE'LL KILL
US!!



"TIGER-CLAW--

"--A NAME WHICH
ECHOES FROM THE
PAST--

"--WHEN I WAS BUT A
YOUTH OF INNOCENCE,
LIVING IN MY FATHER'S
HONAN, CHINA FORTRESS--

"--AND RAISED IN
THE SHADOW OF
EVIL WHICH IS
FU MANCHU.

CHAPTER II:

THE WAY OF THE *TIGER*: A MOVEMENT IN *BLOOD*

"BARELY INTO MY TENTH YEAR,
BREATHLESS AND AWED, I
WATCHED FROM THE CONCEAL-
MENT OF A PILLAR IN THE
CHAMBER MY FATHER
EMPLOYED FOR HIS COURT--

YOU HAVE COME TO ME
FROM *NOWHERE*--UNKNOWN,
WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION,
AND BEARING THE OSTENTA-
TIOUS NAME *TIGER-CLAW*.
THAT I HAVE GRANTED
YOU EVEN A SINGLE
MOMENT'S AUDIENCE
IS GENEROSITY ABOVE
YOUR *WORTH*...

AND NOW YOU *PROFANE*
MY GENEROSITY BY DEMANDING--
DEMANDING--A POSITION AS
ONE OF MY *SI-FAN LODGE*
MASTERS. KEEP IN MIND
THAT ONLY A *HANDFUL*
OF MEN SCATTERED
ACROSS THE *ENTIRE*
GLOBE HAVE EVER
ATTAINED THE RANK
OF *LODGE MASTER*--

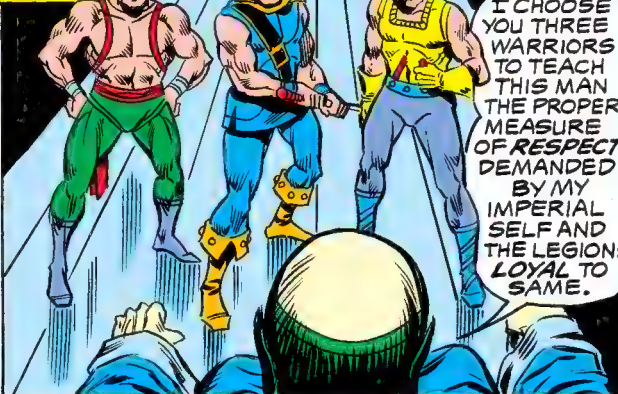
--AND THEN TELL ME,
TIGER-CLAW, WHAT IT
IS THAT MAKES YOU
SUPERIOR TO ANY
ONE OF THE *SI-FAN*
WARRIORS NOW
CONGREGATED
AROUND US.

"BUT THE MAN CALLED **TIGER-CLAW** MERELY ADDED A CLOAK OF SILENCE TO HIS STRANGE ATTIRE. TO MY FATHER, THE LACK OF REPLY WAS AN INSULT WHICH DENIED BOTH HIS STATURE AND HIS VERY EXISTENCE--

THERE IS **INSOLENCE** IN THIS MAN WHO CONCEALS HIS IDENTITY BEHIND THE CONCEIT OF A FALSE AND **BOASTFUL** NAME.

HE HAS ALSO EXHIBITED UNVOICED **CONTEMPT** FOR THE CULT OF **SI-FAN**.

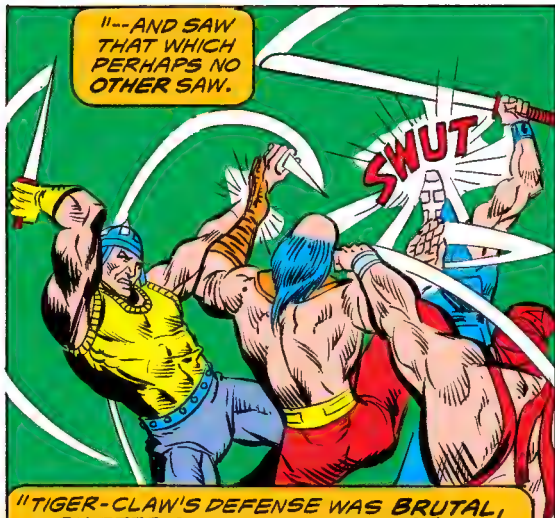
ATTACK HIM AT ONCE.



"THEN, IN THE CONFUSION OF **BATTLE** (THREE WARRIORS CONVERGING ON ONE) AND THE CONFUSION OF MY **THOUGHTS** (MY FATHER METING VIOLENCE AND PERHAPS **DEATH** IN PUNISHMENT OF MERE **INSOLENCE**, I WATCHED AS ALL IN THAT CHAMBER WATCHED--

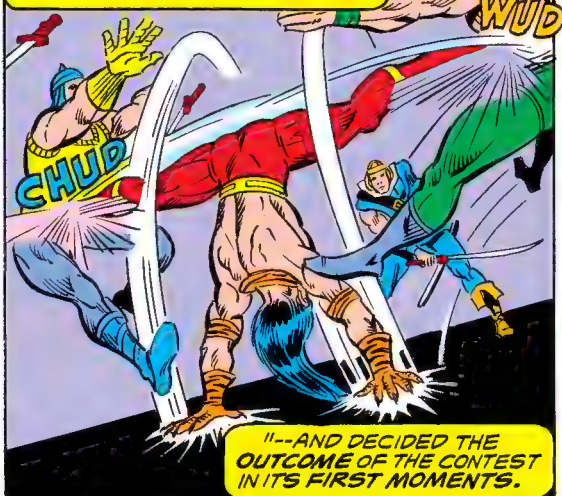


"--AND SAW THAT WHICH PERHAPS NO OTHER SAW.



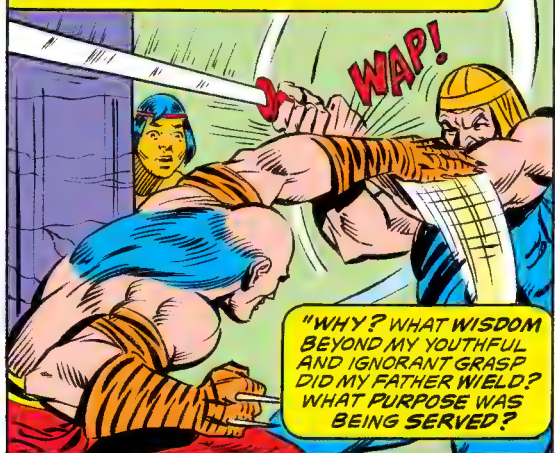
"TIGER-CLAW'S DEFENSE WAS BRUTAL, SHIFTED SWIFTLY TO OFFENSE--

"--INFLICTED INJURY UPON THE THREE **SI-FAN** ADJUTANTS--



"--AND DECIDED THE **OUTCOME** OF THE CONTEST IN ITS FIRST MOMENTS.

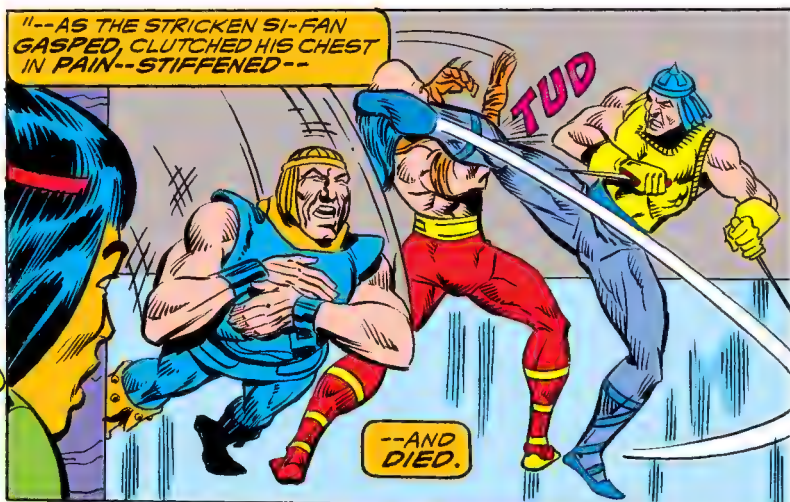
"YET **FU MANCHU** WATCHED, AND SAID NOTHING. MY FATHER DID NOT HALT THAT WHICH COULD BE JUDGED AS NOTHING BUT A **SENSELESS** DISPLAY OF VIOLENCE.



"WHY? WHAT **WISDOM** BEYOND MY YOUTHFUL AND IGNORANT GRASP DID MY FATHER WIELD? WHAT PURPOSE WAS BEING SERVED?

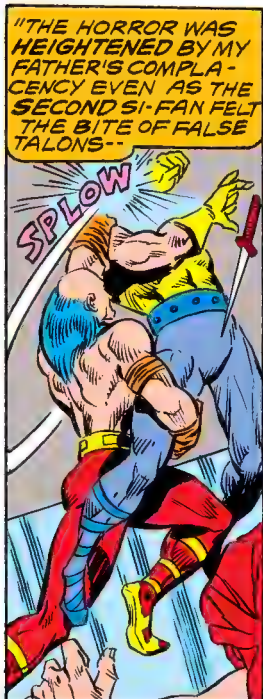


"HORROR STRUCK-- AT ONE WITH THE TALONS EXTENDING FROM TIGER-CLAW'S FIST--

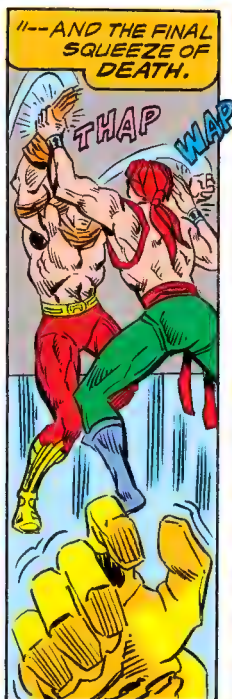


"--AS THE STRICKEN SI-FAN GASPED, CLUTCHED HIS CHEST IN PAIN--STIFFENED--

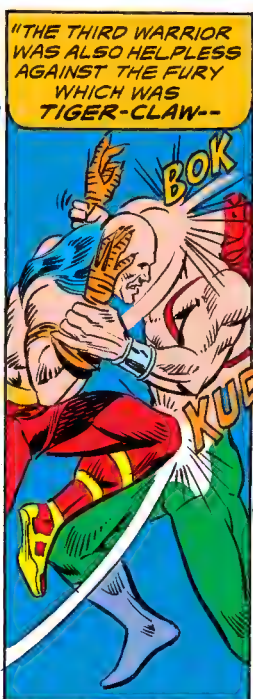
--AND DIED.



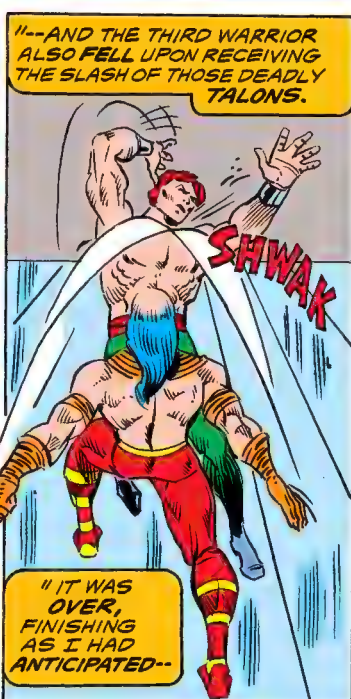
"THE HORROR WAS HEIGHTENED BY MY FATHER'S COMPLACENCY EVEN AS THE SECOND SI-FAN FELT THE BITE OF FALSE TALONS--



"--AND THE FINAL SQUEEZE OF DEATH.

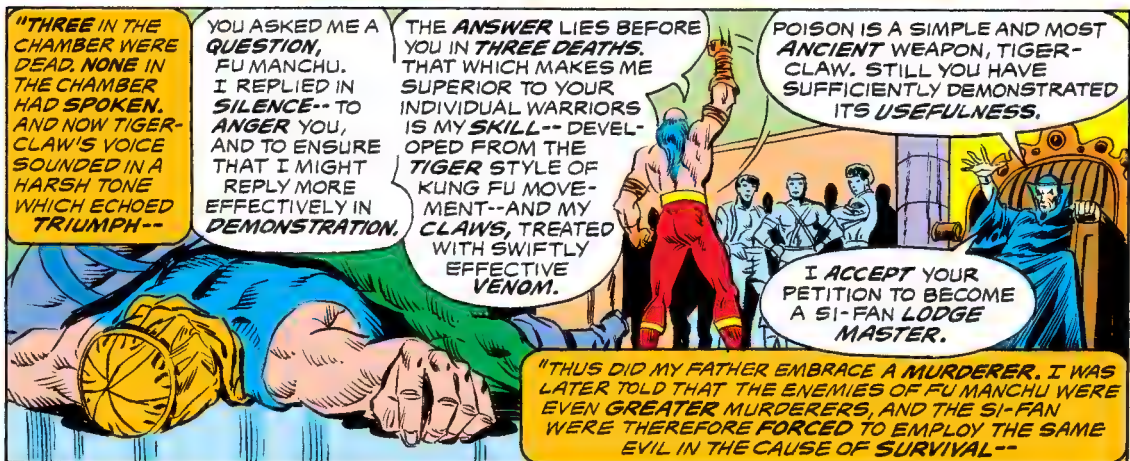


"THE THIRD WARRIOR WAS ALSO HELPLESS AGAINST THE FURY WHICH WAS TIGER-CLAW--



"--AND THE THIRD WARRIOR ALSO FELL UPON RECEIVING THE SLASH OF THOSE DEADLY TALONS.

"IT WAS OVER, FINISHING AS I HAD ANTICIPATED--



"THREE IN THE CHAMBER WERE DEAD. NONE IN THE CHAMBER HAD SPOKEN. AND NOW TIGER-CLAW'S VOICE SOUNDED IN A HARSH TONE WHICH ECHOED TRIUMPH--

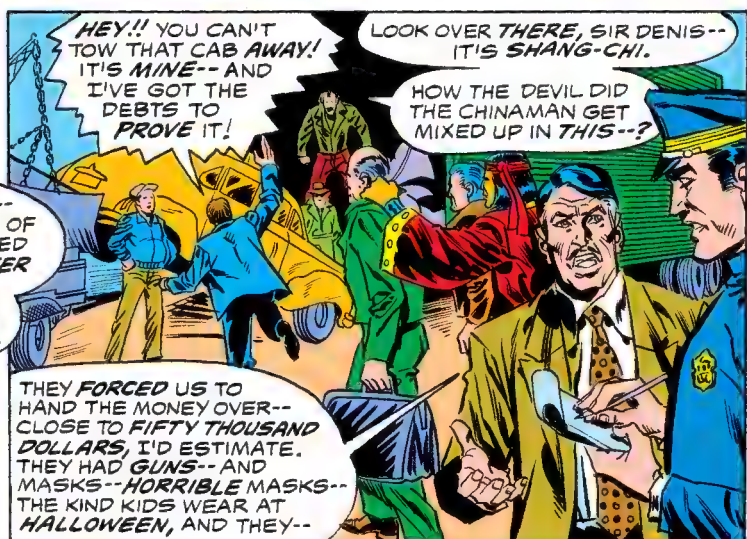
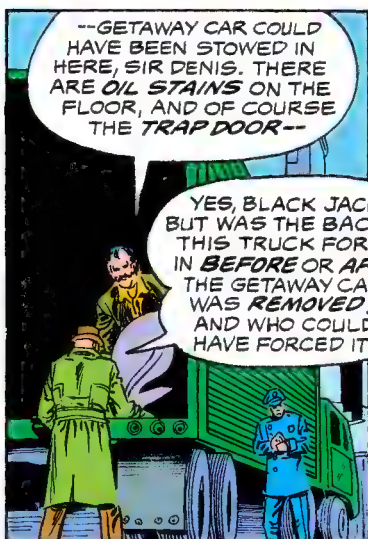
YOU ASKED ME A QUESTION, FU MANCHU. I REPLIED IN SILENCE-- TO ANGER YOU, AND TO ENSURE THAT I MIGHT REPLY MORE EFFECTIVELY IN DEMONSTRATION.

THE ANSWER LIES BEFORE YOU IN THREE DEATHS. THAT WHICH MAKES ME SUPERIOR TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL WARRIORS IS MY SKILL-- DEVELOPED FROM THE TIGER STYLE OF KUNG FU MOVEMENT--AND MY CLAWS, TREATED WITH SWIFTLY EFFECTIVE VENOM.

POISON IS A SIMPLE AND MOST ANCIENT WEAPON, TIGER-CLAW. STILL YOU HAVE SUFFICIENTLY DEMONSTRATED ITS USEFULNESS.

I ACCEPT YOUR PETITION TO BECOME A SI-FAN LODGE MASTER.

"THUS DID MY FATHER EMBRACE A MURDERER. I WAS LATER TOLD THAT THE ENEMIES OF FU MANCHU WERE EVEN GREATER MURDERERS, AND THE SI-FAN WERE THEREFORE FORCED TO EMPLOY THE SAME EVIL IN THE CAUSE OF SURVIVAL--





AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE, BUSTER?

I BELIEVE I CAN ANSWER THAT, OFFICER..

HIS NAME IS SHANG-CHI--A DULY APPOINTED AGENT OF MY OFFICE.

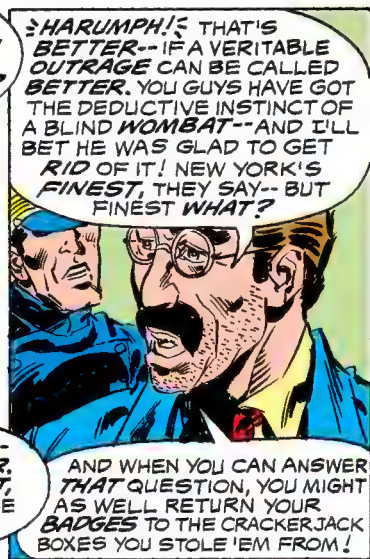


OH. WELL, IN THAT CASE, MR. SMITH I--

LEMME GO, I SAY! I'M WITH CHANG-SHEE--!!

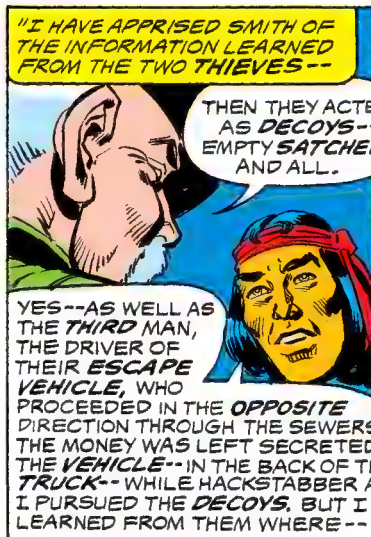
DO YOU, IN FACT, KNOW THIS MAN, CHANG-CHI?

HIS NAME IS-- HACKSTABBER. HE IS INNOCENT, AND SHOULD BE RELEASED.



SHARUMPH!! THAT'S BETTER--IF A VERITABLE OUTRAGE CAN BE CALLED BETTER. YOU GUYS HAVE GOT THE DEDUCTIVE INSTINCT OF A BLIND WOMBAT--AND I'LL BET HE WAS GLAD TO GET RID OF IT! NEW YORK'S FINEST, THEY SAY-- BUT FINEST WHAT?

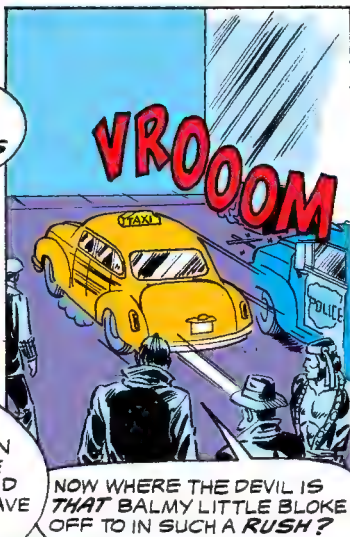
AND WHEN YOU CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION, YOU MIGHT AS WELL RETURN YOUR BADGES TO THE CRACKERJACK BOXES YOU STOLE 'EM FROM!



"I HAVE APPRISED SMITH OF THE INFORMATION LEARNED FROM THE TWO THIEVES--

THEN THEY ACTED AS DECOYS-- EMPTY SATCHELS AND ALL.

YES--AS WELL AS THE THIRD MAN, THE DRIVER OF THEIR ESCAPE VEHICLE, WHO PROCEEDED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION THROUGH THE SEWERS. THE MONEY WAS LEFT SECRETED IN THE VEHICLE--IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK-- WHILE HACKSTABBER AND I PURSUED THE DECOYS. BUT I HAVE LEARNED FROM THEM WHERE--



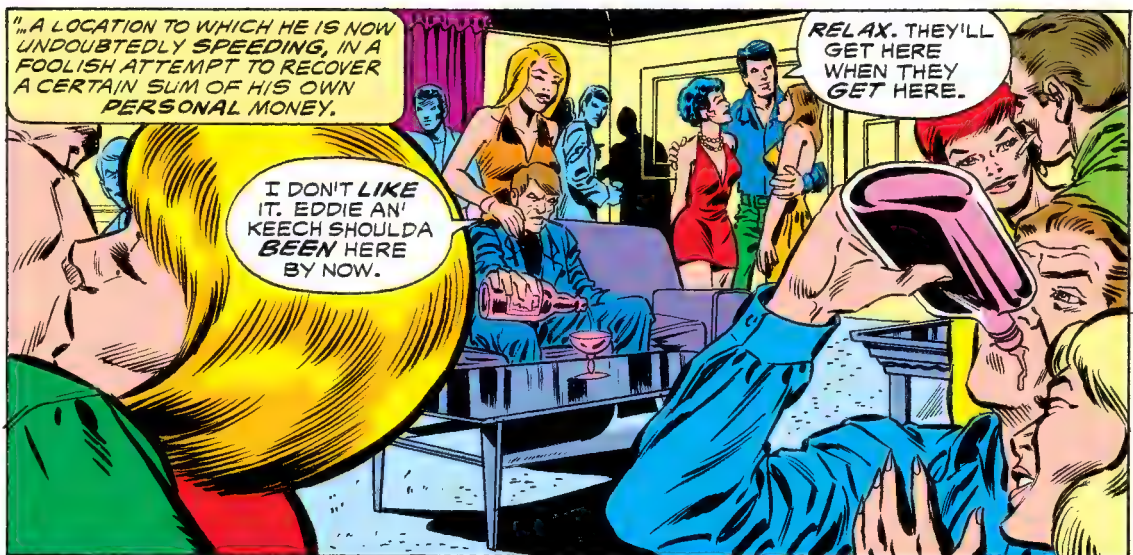
NOW WHERE THE DEVIL IS THAT BALMY LITTLE BLOKE OFF TO IN SUCH A RUSH?



AS I BEGAN TO SAY, I HAVE LEARNED WHERE THE MONEY WAS TAKEN. I SUGGEST FOR HACKSTABBER'S SAKE, YOU PROCEED THERE IMMEDIATELY.

WHY FOR THE CABBIE'S SAKE?

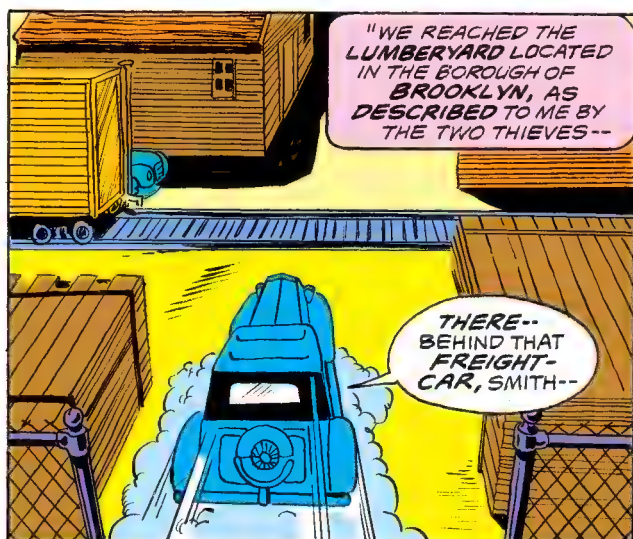
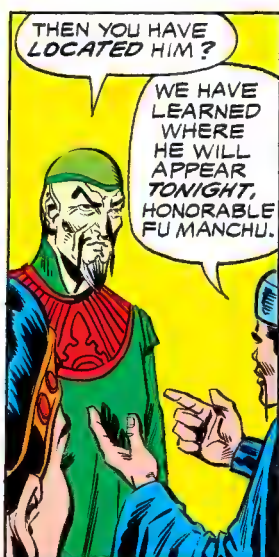
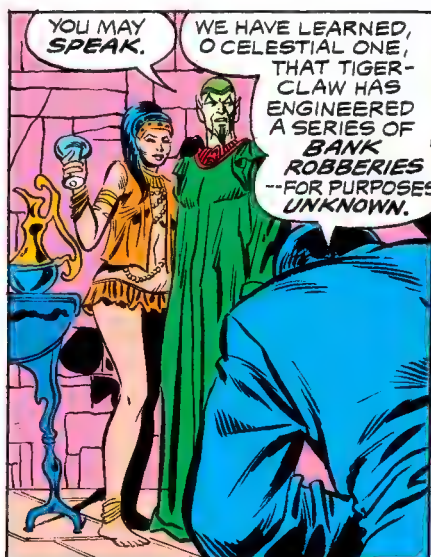
HACKSTABBER WAS PRESENT WHEN I QUESTIONED THE TWO THIEVES, AND ALSO LEARNED WHERE THE MONEY HAS BEEN TAKEN...

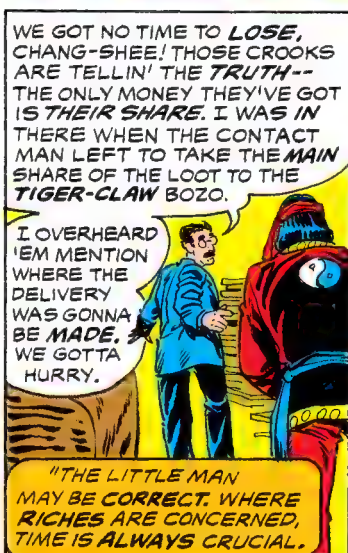


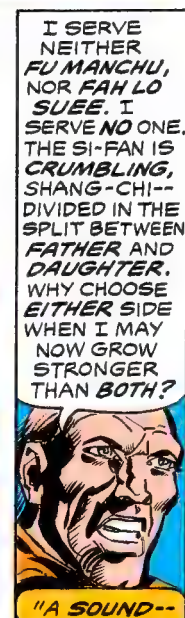
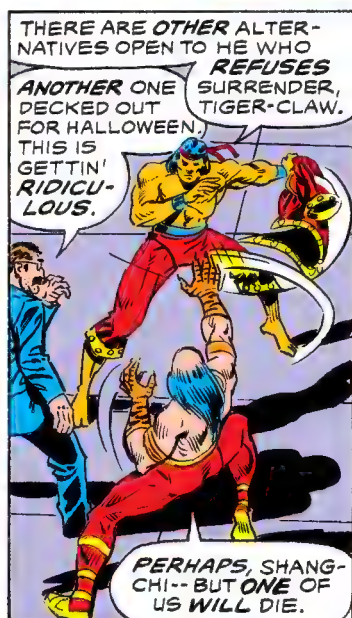
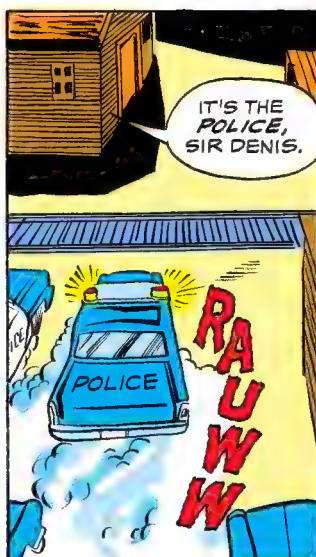
"A LOCATION TO WHICH HE IS NOW UNDOUBTEDLY SPEEDING, IN A FOOLISH ATTEMPT TO RECOVER A CERTAIN SUM OF HIS OWN PERSONAL MONEY.

I DON'T LIKE IT. EDDIE AN' KEECH SHOULD'VE BEEN HERE BY NOW.

RELAX. THEY'LL GET HERE WHEN THEY GET HERE.







"--SCRAPING THE SOILED CITY
DARKNESS PRIOR TO THEIR
UNIFIED EMERGENCE--"

THEY'RE
EVERYWHERE!
THEY'RE POURIN'
OUTTA THE
WOODWORK!

THEY'RE
WEIRD!

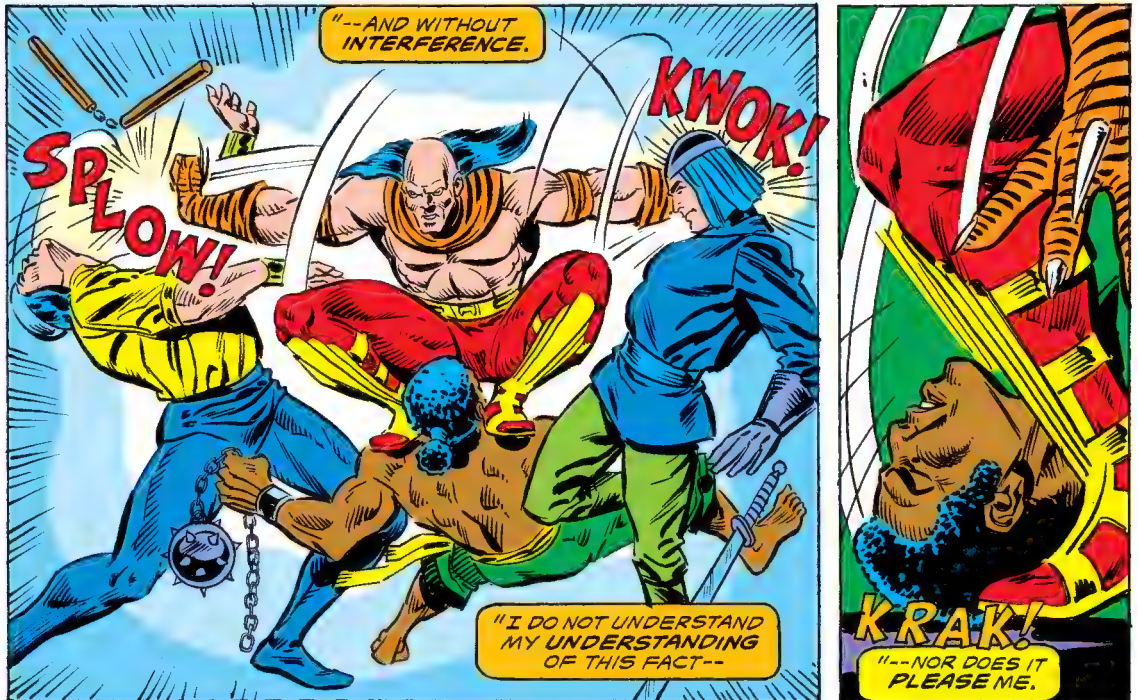
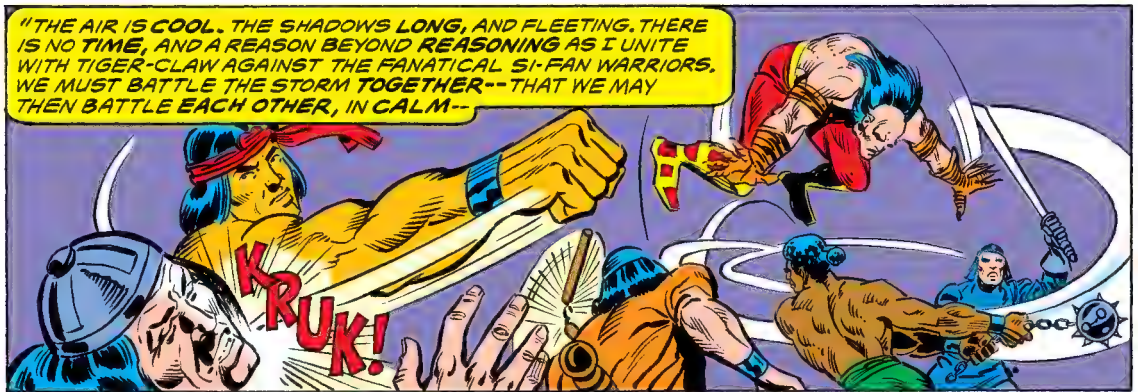
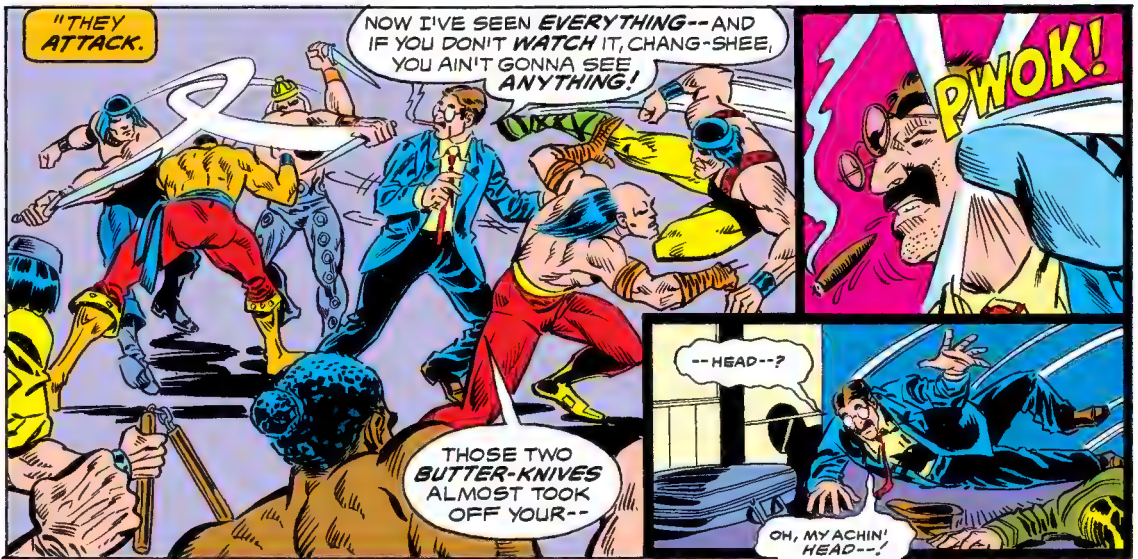
"SI-FAN, AS THEIR PROLONGED
AND SKILLFUL SILENCE
INDICATED, BUT THEIR
NUMBERS ARE GREATER
THAN I HAD SENSED UPON
FIRST ARRIVING HERE--"

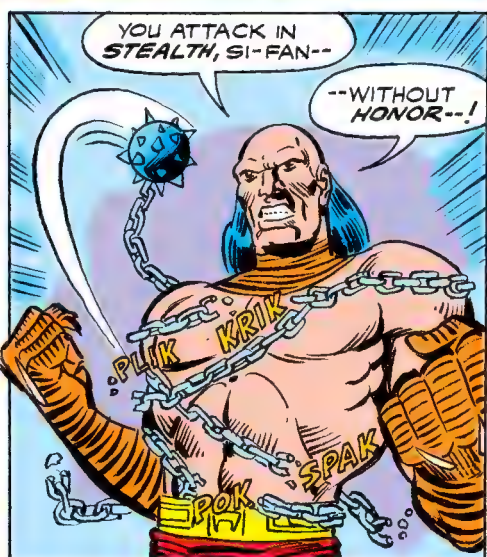
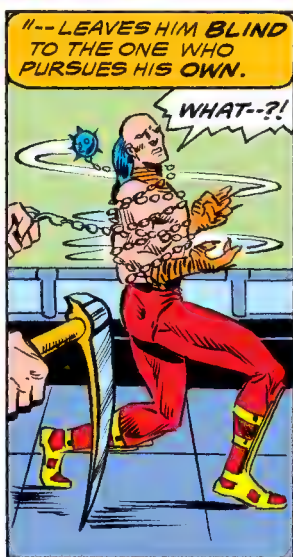
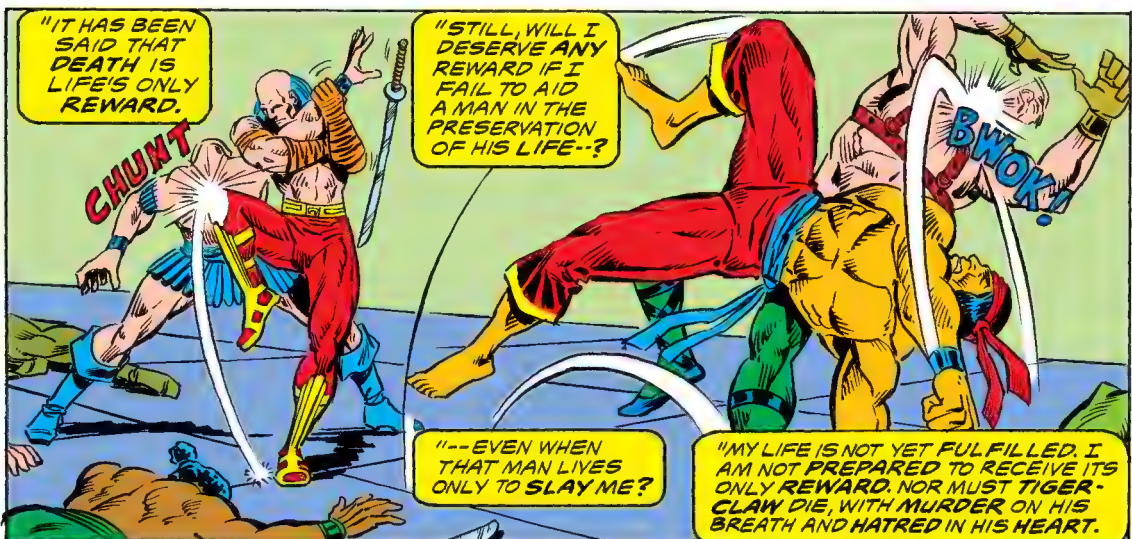
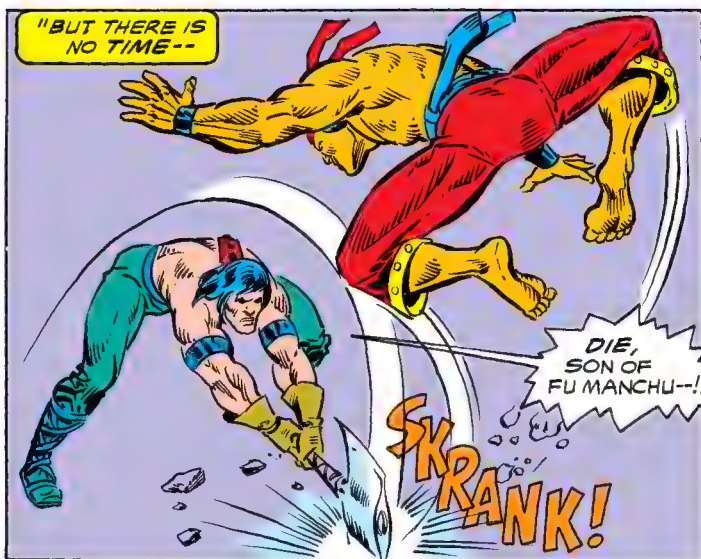
LEAVE WHILE YOU
MAY, SON OF
FU MANCHU. OUR
BUSINESS TONIGHT
DOES NOT CONCERN
YOU. WE ARE HERE
TO SLAY
TIGER-
CLAW.

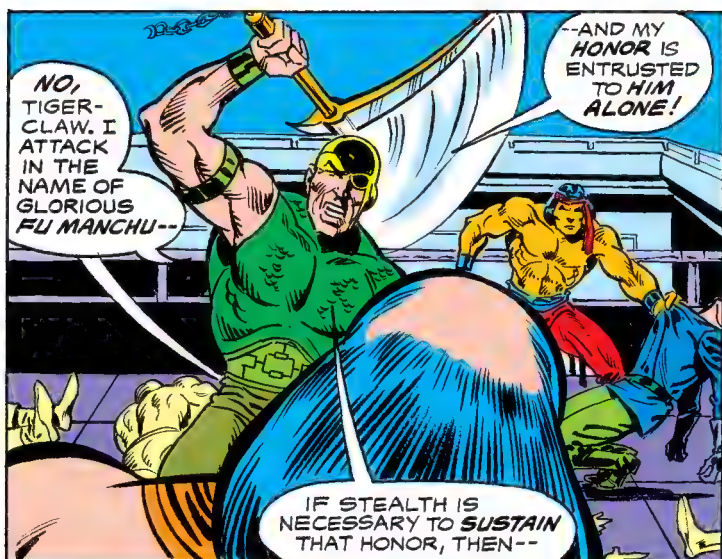
AND I AM HERE
TO SEE THAT NO
ONE IS SLAIN.

"WEAPONS SHIFT AND
MUSCLES TENSE IN
A CIRCLE AROUND US.
MY VOW OF LIFE IS TO
THEM A CHALLENGE.

"IT HAS
BEEN
ACCEPTED.







NO, TIGER-CLAW. I ATTACK IN THE NAME OF GLORIOUS FU MANCHU--

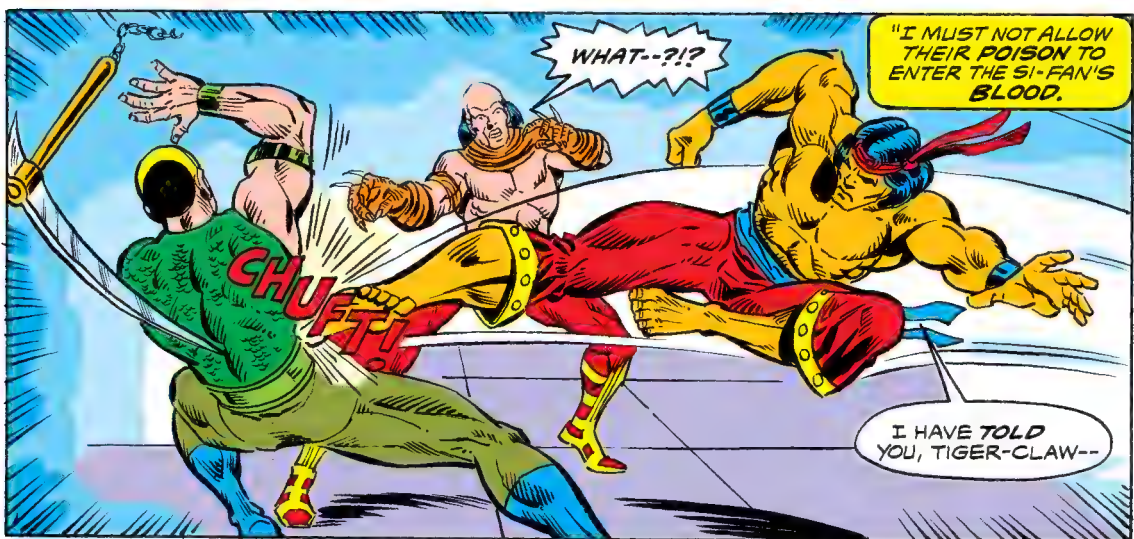
--AND MY HONOR IS ENTRUSTED TO HIM ALONE!

IF STEALTH IS NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THAT HONOR, THEN--



THEN YOU WILL DIE-- MORE SWIFTLY THAN YOU DESERVE, SI-FAN!!

"HIS TALONS--!"



WHAT--?!?

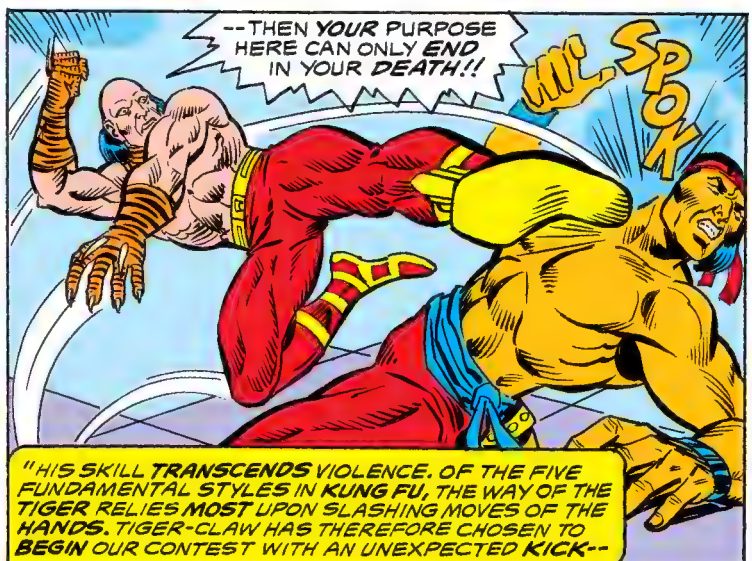
"I MUST NOT ALLOW THEIR POISON TO ENTER THE SI-FAN'S BLOOD."

I HAVE TOLD YOU, TIGER-CLAW--



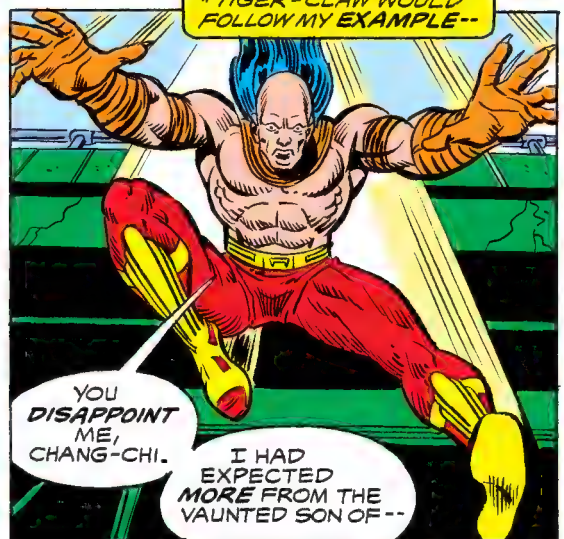
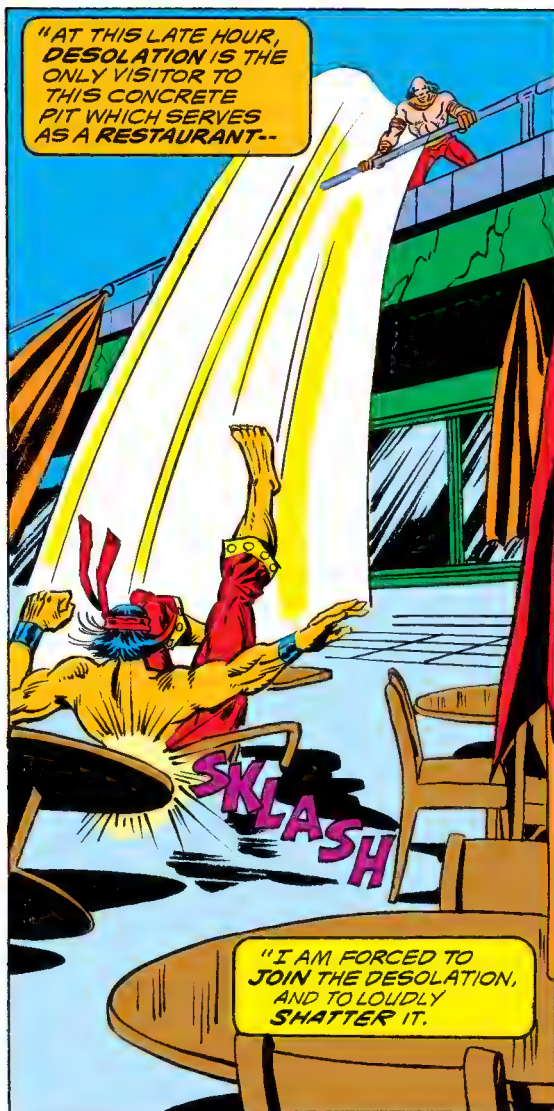
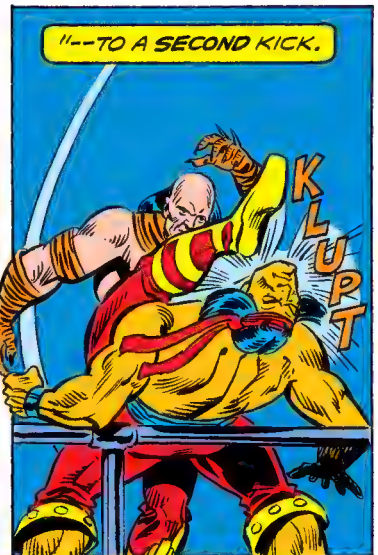
--I AM HERE TO SEE THAT NO ONE IS SLAIN.

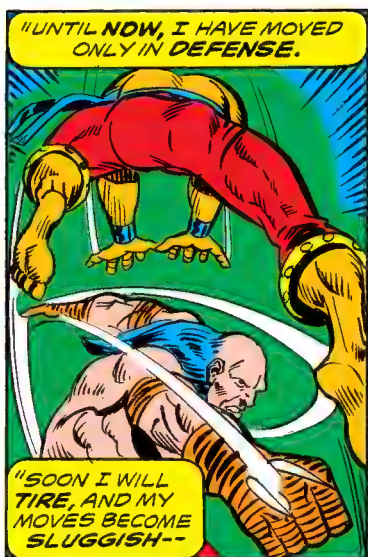
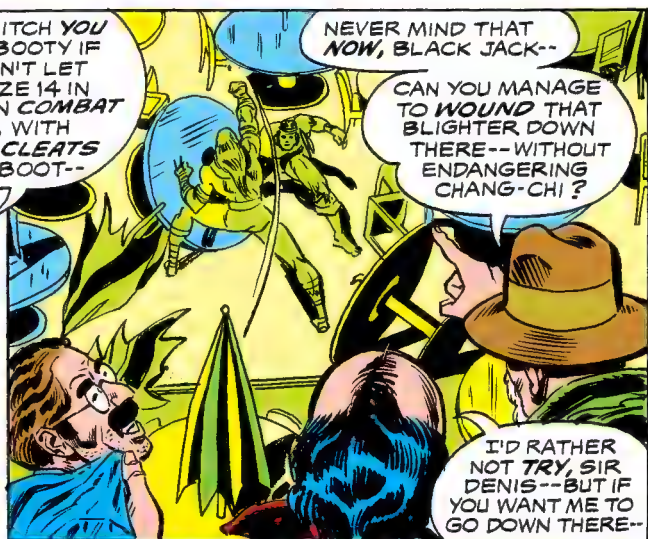
PERHAPS, SHANG-CHI-- BUT AS THE ROOF ITSELF BECOMES WET THAT THOSE INSIDE MAY REMAIN DRY--

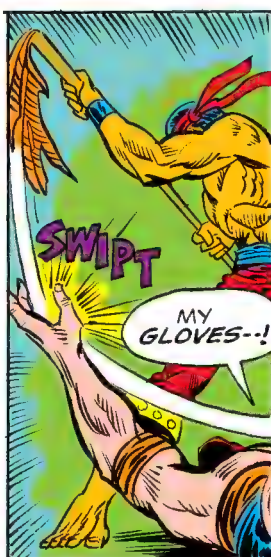
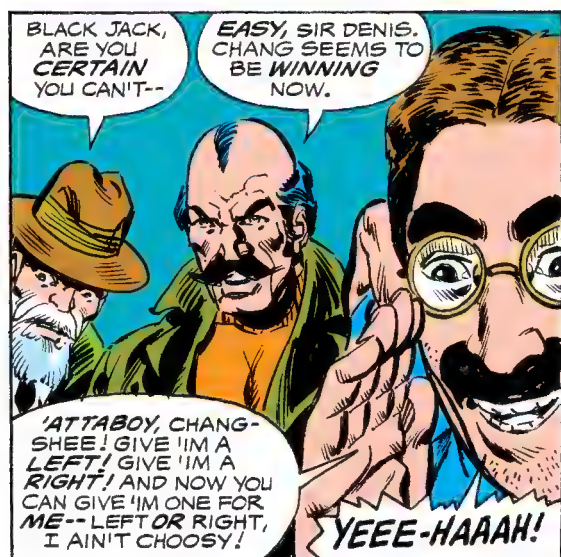
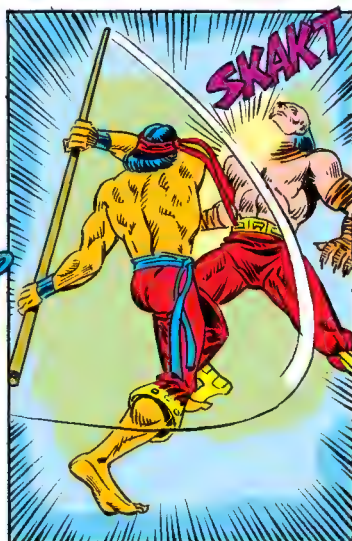
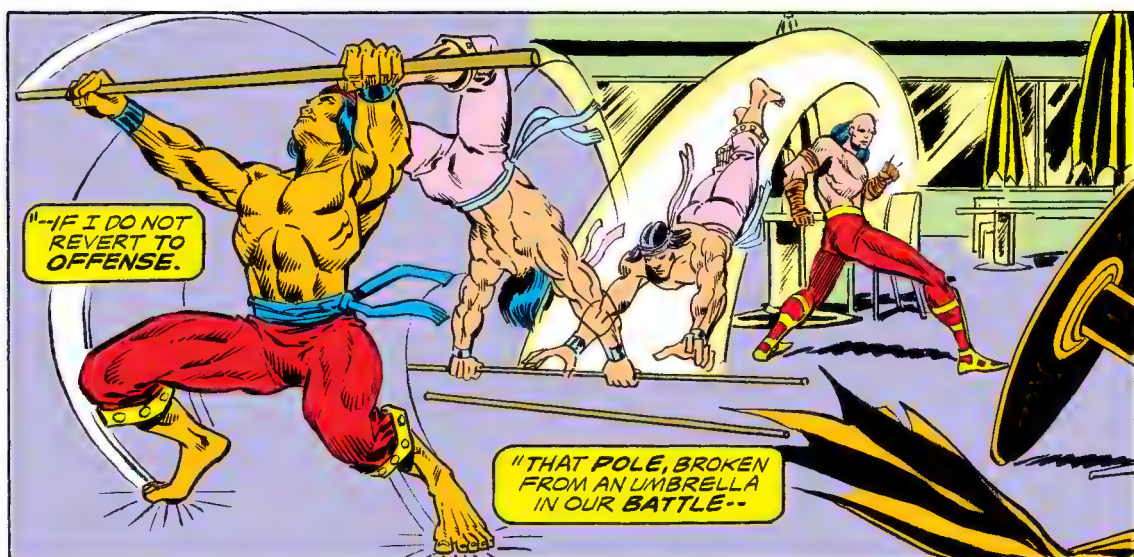


--THEN YOUR PURPOSE HERE CAN ONLY END IN YOUR DEATH!!

"HIS SKILL TRANSCENDS VIOLENCE. OF THE FIVE FUNDAMENTAL STYLES IN KUNG FU, THE WAY OF THE TIGER RELIES MOST UPON SLASHING MOVES OF THE HANDS. TIGER-CLAW HAS THEREFORE CHOSEN TO BEGIN OUR CONTEST WITH AN UNEXPECTED KICK--



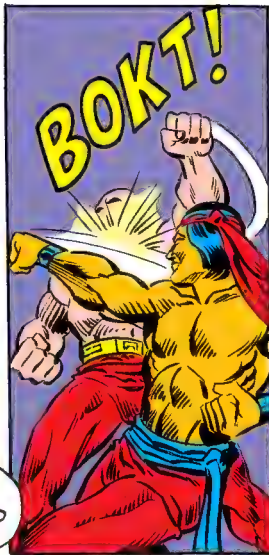




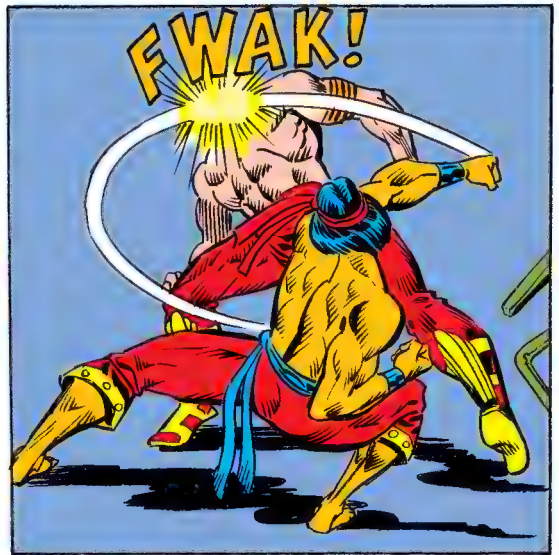


I HAVE REMOVED
YOUR **WEAPONS**,
TIGER-CLAW.

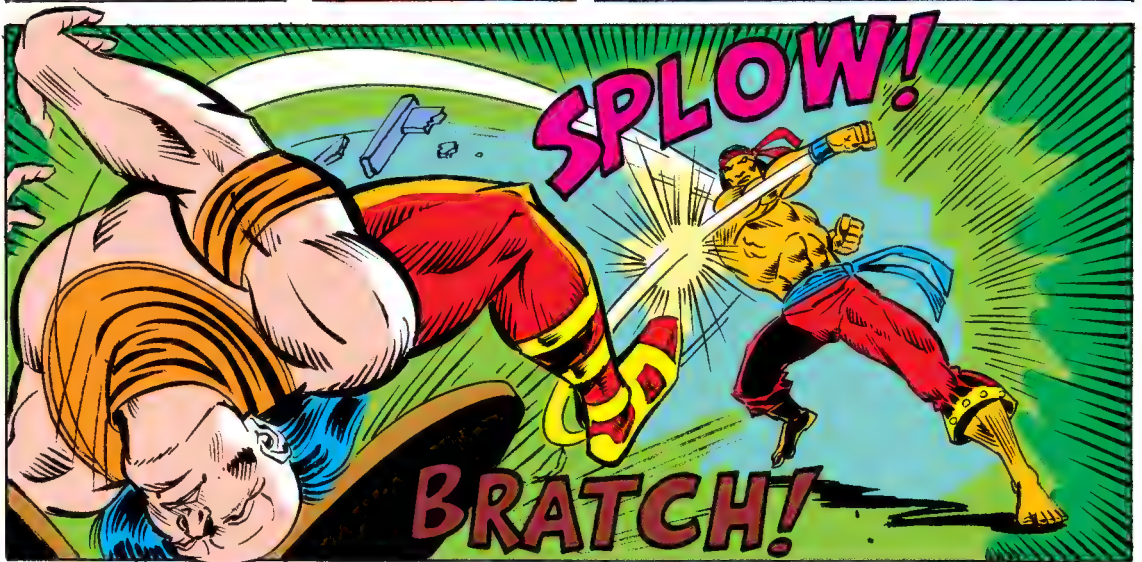
THEREFORE, I NO LONGER
HAVE USE FOR **MINE**. THE
CONTEST WILL BE DECIDED
ON OUR **OWN** SKILLS.



BOKT!



FWAK!



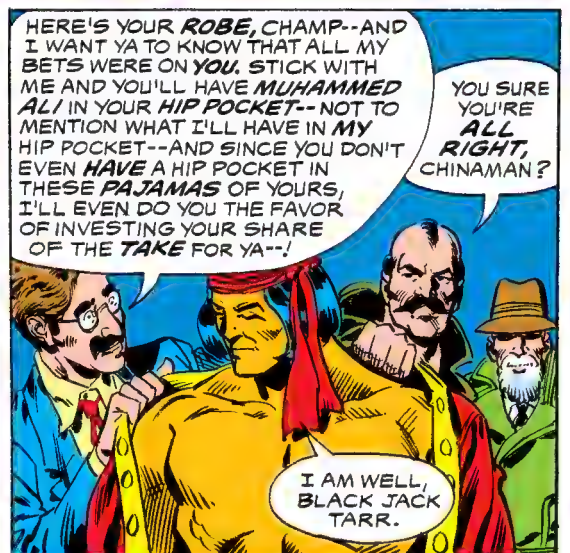
SPLOW!

BRATCH!



TIGER-CLAW MAY
REQUIRE MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE. THE
MONEY IS IN TWO
SUITCASES--

YES,
WE'VE **FOUND**
THEM LAD.



HERE'S YOUR **ROBE**, CHAMP--AND
I WANT YA TO KNOW THAT ALL MY
BETS WERE ON **YOU**. STICK WITH
ME AND YOU'LL HAVE **MUHAMMED**
ALI IN YOUR **HIP POCKET**--NOT TO
MENTION WHAT I'LL HAVE IN MY
HIP POCKET--AND SINCE YOU DON'T
EVEN **HAVE** A HIP POCKET IN
THESE **PAJAMAS** OF YOURS,
I'LL EVEN DO YOU THE FAVOR
OF INVESTING YOUR SHARE
OF THE **TAKE** FOR YA--!

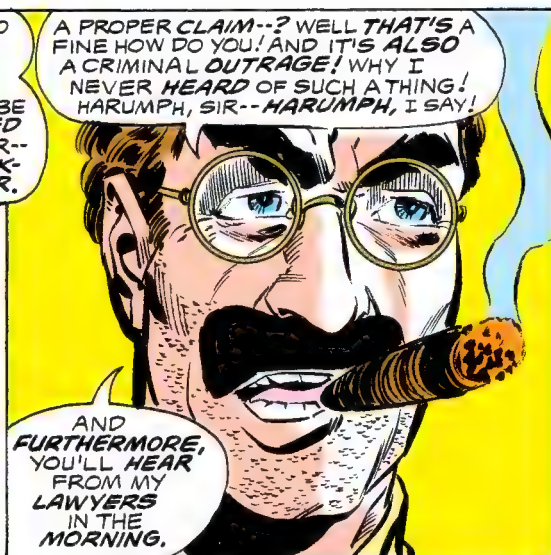
YOU SURE
YOU'RE
ALL
RIGHT,
CHINAMAN?

I AM WELL,
BLACK JACK
TARR.



GOOD. AND NOW THAT THAT'S ALL SETTLED I'LL JUST GET MY \$7.80 OUT OF THAT SUITCASE THERE AND--

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO FILE A **PROPER CLAIM** WITH THE **AUTHORITIES** BEFORE ANY MONEY CAN BE RETURNED TO YOU, MR-- EH, HACKSTABBER.



A **PROPER CLAIM**--? WELL THAT'S A FINE HOW DO YOU! AND IT'S **ALSO** A **CRIMINAL OUTRAGE!** WHY I NEVER **HEARD** OF SUCH A THING! HARUMPH, SIR-- HARUMPH, I SAY!

AND **FURTHERMORE**, YOU'LL **HEAR** FROM MY **LAWYERS** IN THE **MORNING**.



OH, AND BY THE WAY-- IS THAT YOUR **FINAL OFFER**?

MY **FINAL**--?



NOW **SEE HERE**, MR. "HACKSTABBER"-- I'M BEGINNING TO LOSE **PATIENCE** WITH THIS **LUNATIC DEMEANOR** OF YOURS. PERHAPS YOU FEEL YOU'RE MERELY BEING **FACETIOUS**, BUT I CONSIDER IT A **DIRECT INSULT** TO MY--

SMITH. I WOULD **SPEAK** WITH YOU.

EH? VERY WELL, SHANG-CHI--



AND YOU, YA BIG **LUMMOX**--! IF I WERE YOU, I'D TAKE UP FREE RESIDENCE IN THE **ZOO**!



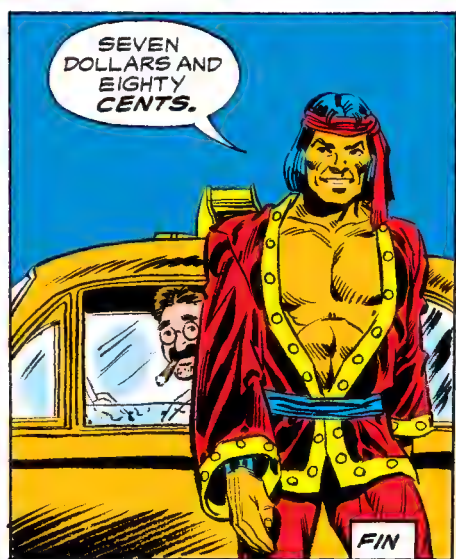
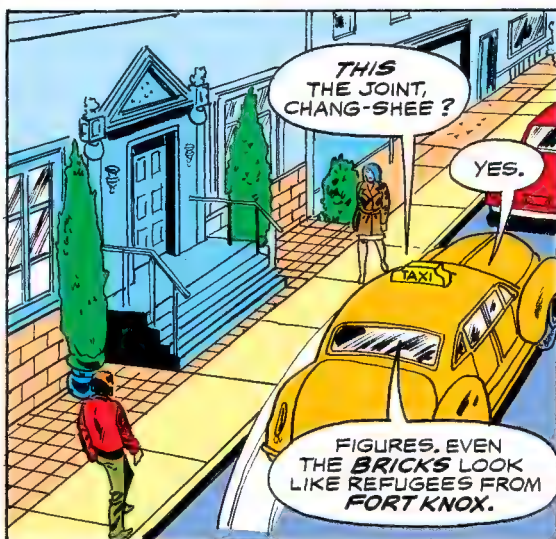
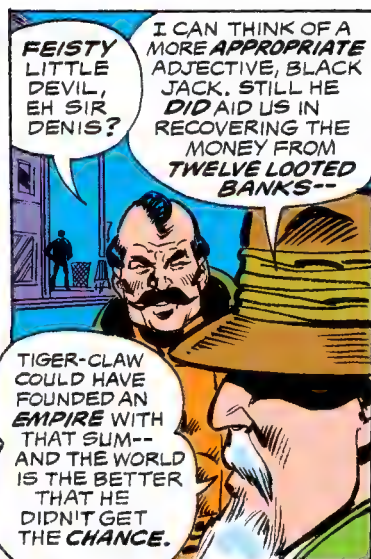
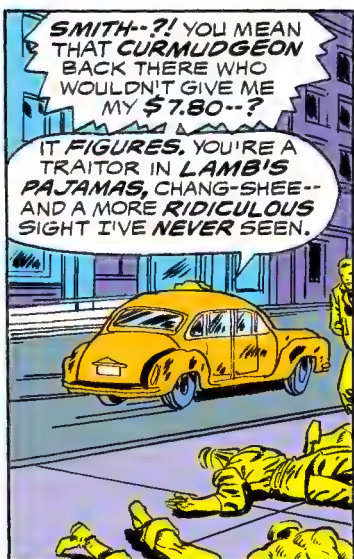
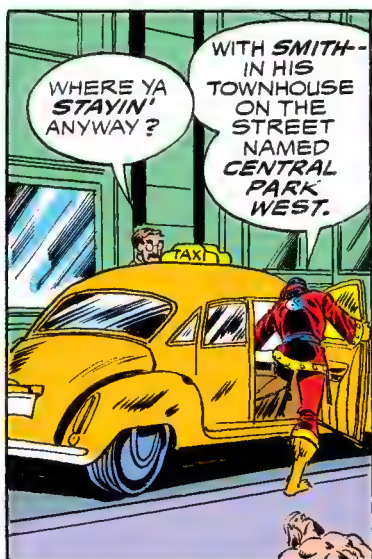
HEY-- THAT CIGAR COST ME **FIVE CENTS**!

YOU ARE A **CAD**, SIR-- A VERY **BAD CAD**, TOO!



COME ON, CHANG-CHEE-- I'M GETTING OUTTA HERE. I'LL GIVE YA A RIDE HOME IN MY **CAB** IF YOU WANT-- ALTHOUGH **WHY**, I DON'T KNOW--

--SEEING AS HOW YOU'RE A FRIENDS OF THESE **DESPICABLE FRAUDS** AND **CHEAPSKATES**!



IN 1976, MARVEL COMMISSIONED A SERIES OF FIVE-TO-SIX-PAGE BACKUP STORIES TO BREAK IN ROOKIE TALENT AND RELIEVE DEADLINE PRESSURE WHEN REGULAR CREATIVE TEAMS RAN LATE. THE INITIATIVE WAS SHORT LIVED AND MANY OF THE BACKUP STORIES, INCLUDING THIS MIDNIGHT TALE FROM AUGUST 1977'S *IRON MAN ANNUAL* #4, SAW PRINT A YEAR OR MORE AFTER THEIR COMPLETION.

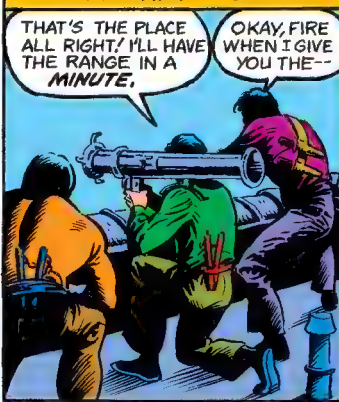
He was born M'Nai, a child of the African jungles. Then the soldiers came—destroying his village, killing his parents, and leaving him horribly disfigured. Dr. Fu Manchu found the babe. He covered M'Nai's scars with a mask, and raised him as his son—brother to Shang-Chi...and his equal in the martial arts.

STAN LEE PRESENTS: **THE MAN CALLED MIDNIGHT!**™

SINGAPORE: 1971. IT HAD BEEN AN UNBEARABLY HOT DAY, AND NIGHTFALL HAD DONE LITTLE TO COOL THE CITY STREETS. IT WAS NOT A NIGHT FOR HEAVY LABOR... A FACT LOST--



--ON THREE MEN THAT GREED HAD BROUGHT TO A SHADOWED ROOFTOP, HIGH ABOVE THE WIDE AVENUES.



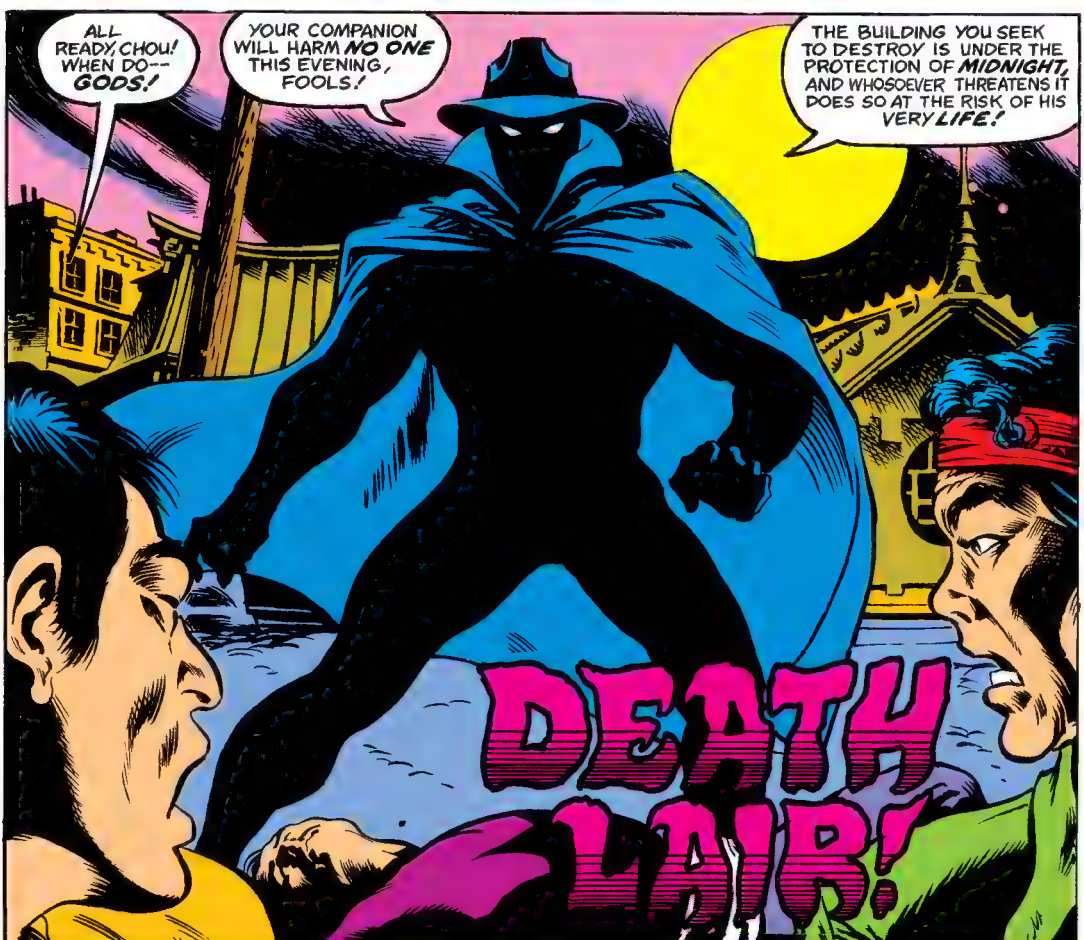
THAT'S THE PLACE ALL RIGHT! I'LL HAVE THE RANGE IN A MINUTE.

OKAY, FIRE WHEN I GIVE YOU THE--

--SIGNAL.



THE WORD CAUGHT IN HIS THROAT. THE EBON-COVERED HAND CAME SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE, MOVING WITH THE SWIFTESS OF THOUGHT.



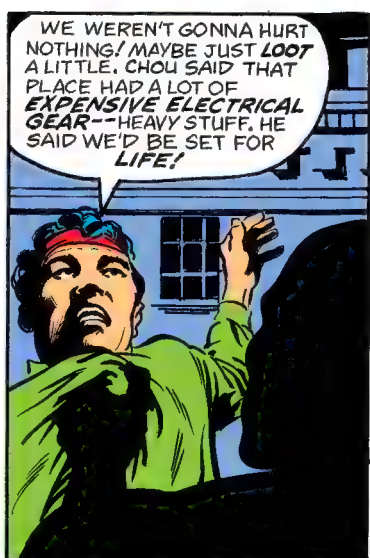
ALL READY, CHOU! WHEN DO-- GODS!

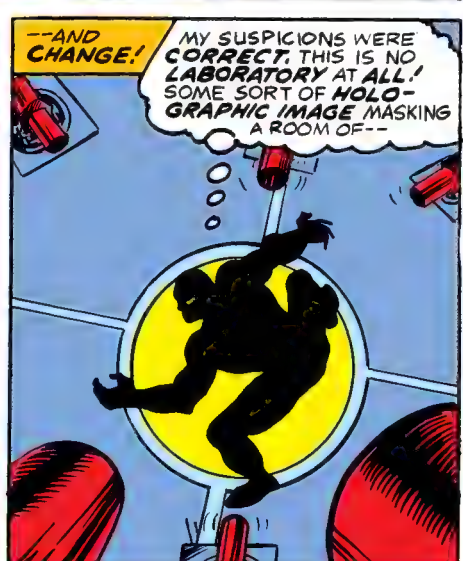
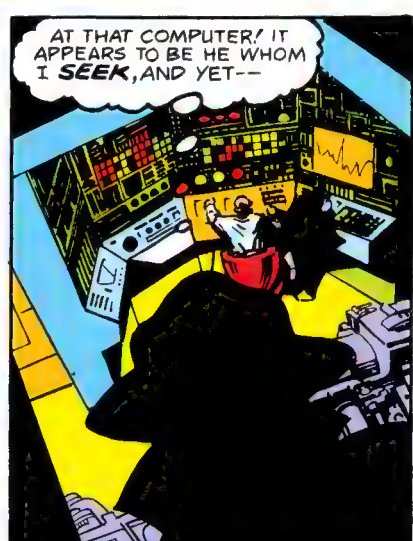
YOUR COMPANION WILL HARM NO ONE THIS EVENING, FOOLS!

THE BUILDING YOU SEEK TO DESTROY IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MIDNIGHT, AND WHOEVER THREATENS IT DOES SO AT THE RISK OF HIS VERY LIFE!

DEATH LAIR!

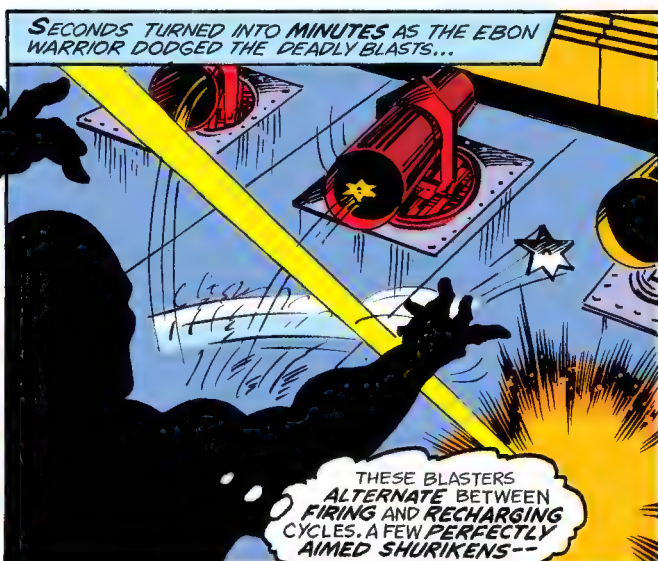
A TALE OF MYSTERY AND INTRIGUE BY • ROGER STERN, WRITER • JEFF ACLIN, PENCILER • DON NEWTON, INKER • H. BENDER, LETTERS • N. YOMTOV, COLORS • ARCHIE GOODWIN, EDITOR





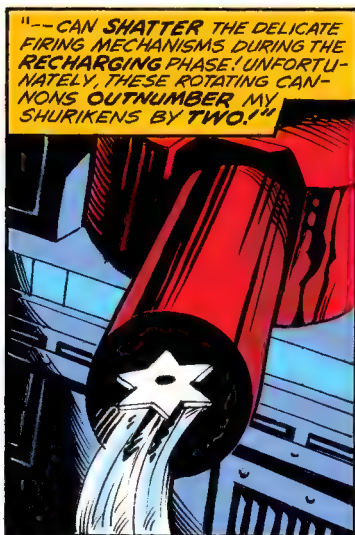


--AUTOMATED
RAY-BLASTERS!

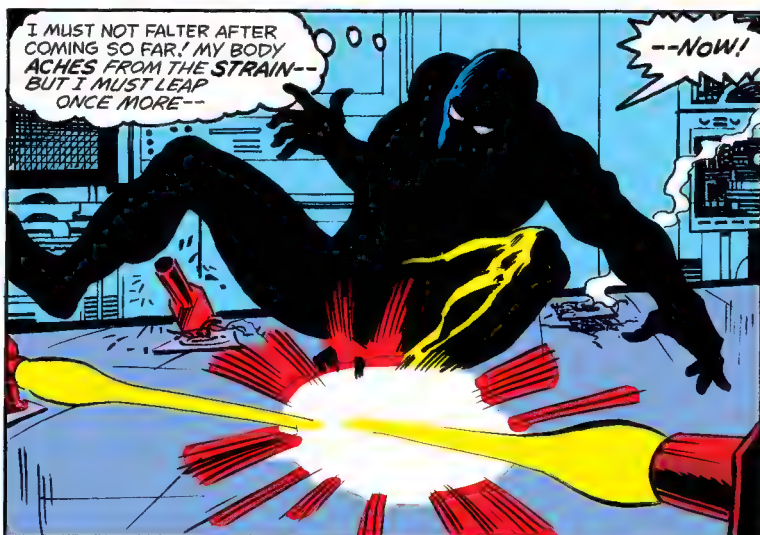


SECONDS TURNED INTO MINUTES AS THE EBON
WARRIOR DODGED THE DEADLY BLASTS...

THESE BLASTERS
ALTERNATE BETWEEN
FIRING AND RECHARGING
CYCLES. A FEW PERFECTLY
AIMED SHURIKENS--

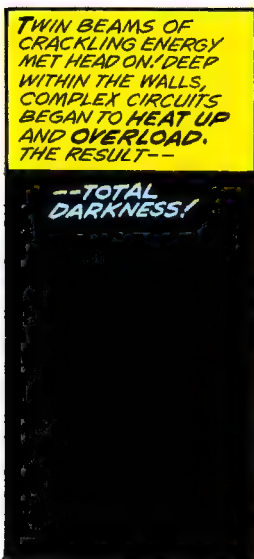


"-- CAN SHATTER THE DELICATE
FIRING MECHANISMS DURING THE
RECHARGING PHASE! UNFORTU-
NATELY, THESE ROTATING CAN-
NONS OUTNUMBER MY
SHURIKENS BY TWO!"



I MUST NOT FALTER AFTER
COMING SO FAR! MY BODY
ACHES FROM THE STRAIN--
BUT I MUST LEAP
ONCE MORE--

--NOW!



TWIN BEAMS OF
CRACKLING ENERGY
MET HEAD ON! DEEP
WITHIN THE WALLS,
COMPLEX CIRCUITS
BEGAN TO HEAT UP
AND OVERLOAD.
THE RESULT--

--TOTAL
DARKNESS!



AND AT LAST IN HIS ELEMENT,
MIDNIGHT ALLOWED A GRIM
SMILE TO FLICKER ACROSS THE
RUINED FACE HIDDEN
BENEATH HIS EBON MASK.

AH! NOW TABLES HAVE TURNED!
HERE, I AM INVINCIBLE! MAKE
YOUR MOVE, MY OPPONENT! I
AM READY!



SUDDENLY, THERE WAS THE HEAVY RASP OF
A METAL DOOR OPENING, AND A
BOOMING VOICE CRIED OUT...

INTRUDER! YOU WISH TO
STEAL THE CREATIONS OF HALF-
FACE? VERY WELL, YOU MAY TRY--
BUT YOU SHALL NEVER LEAVE THIS
ROOM ALIVE!



PERHAPS, I AM **AWARE** OF YOUR ABILITIES, HALF-FACE. THAT IS WHY I AM HERE-- TO ENLIST THEM!

WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU SEEK MY AID?!



IT IS NOT FOR MYSELF. MY **MASTER**--THE REVERED **FU MANCHU**--REQUIRES YOUR SERVICE. NEWS OF YOUR TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS HAS REACHED HIS EARS. HE WOULD HAVE YOU **JOIN** HIM IN HIS CAUSE.

I WILL **RETURN** WITH YOU... OR **DIE** IN THE ATTEMPT.



I HAVE **NO USE** FOR CAUSES--AND I HAVE HAD QUITE ENOUGH OF **MASTERS**. NOW I WORK ONLY FOR **MYSELF**.

YOUR WORDS BETRAY **BITTERNESS**, HALF-FACE. TELL ME, DOES IT COME FROM **FALSIFYING ATROCITIES** FOR THE **VIET-MINH***...OR FROM THE **ACTUAL U.S. BOMBINGS** WHICH RAVAGED YOUR LAND?

*TALES OF SUSPENSE
#S 92-94--ARCHIE.



YOU SPEAK **LIGHTLY** OF **TRAGEDY**, YOUTH. YOU DO NOT **KNOW** WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE FAMILY AND FRIENDS--TO SUFFER THE **DISFIGUREMENT** OF WARFARE--AS I DO! I AM FINALLY AT **PEACE** HERE! I WILL HAVE **NO MORE** OF **CAUSES** AND **WARS**! **BEGONE!**



BENEATH HIS DARK MASK, THE FLAME-RAVAGED FEATURES OF MIDNIGHT TWISTED IN DEEP INNER PAIN. FOR A MOMENT HE WAS SILENT, AND THEN...

I-I...WILL GO. BUT KNOW YOU THIS, HALF-FACE--NO MAN CAN LONG **IGNORE** THE SUMMONS OF **FU MANCHU**! IF WE MEET AGAIN, PRAY THAT IT IS NOT AS **ENEMIES**!



I MUST THINK ON THIS...DEEPLY. FOR HE AND I ARE MUCH ALIKE... AND YET... HE **REFUSED** THE CALL OF THE MASTER I HEED WITHOUT QUESTION.

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE DARK FIGURE MERGED WITH THE SHADOWS OF THE CITY--AND WAS SEEN THERE NO MORE.

[FIN]



COURTESY ROMAIN VERLIER

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY NOTE:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Catchy title, that: it, along with the cover of this issue of SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION, was premiered at the July 4th Comic Art Convention held in New York City, and it's been the subject of questioning letters and capricious fan-comment every since.

It's a weird-enough concept, you'll have to grant us that: a cataclysmic combination of the kind of martial-arts action which has recently taken both TV and the movies by storm, and the sinister super-villainy of the most famous fictional evil mastermind ever, Fu Manchu. And all birthed over cheeseburgers and chocolate mousse in an informal conference between Steve Englehart, Jim Starlin, and yours truly at a unique little place called the Auto Pub.

But the real origins of this series go back even further — more than sixty years to be exact, and — well, I'll let stainless Steve tell you all about that in his own inimitable way . . . !

Roy T.

This initial tale of Shang-Chi, the Master of Kung Fu, and his frankly far-out father, could only touch upon many of the major points Jim and I plan to develop further in the issues to come, so we thought we'd use this space (later to be devoted to your letters of comment) to rap a bit about the series.

First, for those of you who are meeting the insidious Dr. Fu Manchu for the first time — the archetypal arch-fiend (upon whom all other so-called "yellow peril" types, including Marvel's

own Yellow Claw and Mandarin, were based) was the creation of Arthur Sarsfield Ward, under his much better known pseudonym of Sax Rohmer. Rohmer's early interests included ancient Egypt and the occult, but for a time he worked as a journalist — until editors began buying his fiction as well. He wrote a great many stories in his lifetime, most of them *not* about Fu Manchu, but it is for the devil doctor that he's most remembered.

Rohmer detailed Fu Manchu's epic battles with Sir Denis Nayland Smith for nearly fifty years, always setting the stories contemporaneously. Thus, in the first book, published in 1913, Nayland Smith and Petrie are in their twenties, and live in pre-World-War-I London. In the final adventures, written in the late 1950's, Sir Denis is in his 60's, and Petrie has long since retired from the chase. We have tried to maintain the practice in the series.

But why, you ask, are we doing Fu Manchu anyway? Isn't the *real* star of this book Shang-Chi? Well, the answer lies in an agreement worked out between Marvel and Rohmer's literary agents several years ago, granting us the rights to use Fu Manchu in comics. On more than one occasion, Stan and Roy began to work up a series for the good doctor, but somehow, something always aborted their plans. Then, recently, an interest in Oriental philosophy and culture swept America, and two of the most-swept were Steve and Jim. They started haranguing Roy for a chance to do a strip about a master of the martial and mental arts — Roy remembered the classic Oriental villain he had in the wings — and voila! A combination of the two, in order to

provide a framework of evil in which Shang-Chi could operate.

As to who the real star of the books is — well, Steve and Jim consider *both* of our lead characters to be in that category. The focus of the adventures will be on Shang-Chi, because his abilities for action and his complex character are very interesting to follow; but the diametrically-opposed character and unnameable evils of Fu Manchu provide the perfect counter-point. As with Rohmer's novels, Fu will remain in the shadows most of the time, but his presence will be everywhere.

Finally, I, Steve, would like very much to thank Robert E. Briney, editor of *The Rohmer Review*, a journal dealing with all aspects of Rohmer's life and works, for his help with this first issue. I hasten to add that Mr. Briney only responded to questions I asked him, and hasn't seen this story before publication, so any errors in my telling of the Fu Manchu legend are my sole responsibility. If you'd be interested in learning more about *The Rohmer Review*, write to Mr. Briney at 4 Forest Avenue, Salem, Mass. 01970.

See you in SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #16, folks!

MARVEL
IS ON THE
MOVE AGAIN!

TOP: SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #15 EDITORIAL, BY ROY THOMAS

BOTTOM: SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #15 HOUSE AD, FROM DECEMBER 1973 TITLES

AN IRON FIST... AND HANDS OF STEEL...

AGAINST THE MACABRE MASTER-VILLAINY OF

FU MANCHU?

YOU *KNOW* IT, EFFENDI! THAT'S THE THEME-- AND ACTION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME-- IN THE NEWEST, PERHAPS MOST MAGNIFICENT MAG OF ALL!

MOVE OVER, CAINE! STEP ASIDE, BRUCE LEE! THIS IS THE BIG ONE-- ON SALE NOW--!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP.

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION!

FEATURING **THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU**

OUR PERSONAL BULLPEN PLEDGE: YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE LIKE IT!

FRIENDS FROM BIRTH--YET FORCED TO
FIGHT A BATTLE TO THE DEATH IN
THE DARK BACK ALLEYS OF
MANHATTAN!

SHANG-CHI VS. THE DEADLY
NIGHT-FIGHTER CALLED **MIDNIGHT!**
"AND ONLY ONE
CAN LIVE!"

ALL IN ISSUE #17--
ON SALE NOV. 13!



CAN EVEN SHANG-CHI'S
ART OF FURY
PREVAIL AGAINST THE
STARS OF DEATH?

MARTIAL ARTS ACTION AS YOU LIKE IT!

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #16 HOUSE AD, FROM FEBRUARY 1974 TITLES

THE MARVEL AGE of KUNG FU THRILLS!

YOU'VE PRAISED **MASTER OF KUNG FU**--
PANICKED FOR **IRON FIST**--

NOW, THE TIME HAS COME FOR ...

**GIANT-SIZE
MASTER OF
KUNG FU**



ON SALE
JUNE 25!

JUST 50¢--FOR 68 STEEL-SHATTERING PAGES!
(AND DON'T FORGET OUR 25¢ SHANG-CHI
ACTION-FEST--NOW ON SALE MONTHLY!)

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU #1 HOUSE AD, FROM AUGUST 1974 TITLES

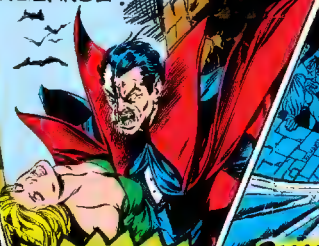
THREE MORE **GIANT-SIZE** MASTERPIECES FROM **MIGHTY MARVEL!**



ON SALE
SEPT. 24

THE DIABOLICAL COUNT
DRACULA
FACES A 400-YEAR-OLD
VENGEANCE!

ON SALE
SEPT. 17



ON SALE
SEPT. 24



CONAN THE BARBARIAN
BATTLES FOR HIS LIFE AGAINST
"THE HUNTER OF THE PIT!"

ONLY 50¢
COLLECT
THEM ALL!

**SHANG-CHI,
MASTER OF KUNG FU--**
A VICTIM OF "THE DEVIL-DOCTOR'S TRIUMPH!"

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU #2 HOUSE AD, FROM DECEMBER 1974 TITLES

Martial Arts Mayhem! In Full-Color Format!

Hey, you reading this magazine. Unless you're a newsstand browser, odds are you're a fan of two-fisted, high-flying Kung Fu action. Right? And maybe one mag isn't enough to satisfy your liking for this kind of excitement. Well, guess what?

Over to the left. You know. Where they keep the color comics. We have these three comics you just might enjoy.



The steel-smashing man they call the Living Weapon

MASTER OF KUNG FU

Starring Shang-Chi,
son of Fu Manchu

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU

Double the size, double the thrills

Look for 'em! Buy 'em! They're the best!

MARVEL KUNG FU COMICS HOUSE AD, FROM MARVEL'S NOVEMBER 1974 BLACK-AND-WHITE MAGAZINES

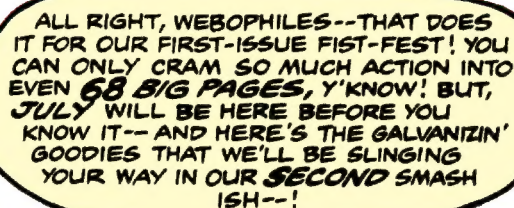


MARVEL COMICS GROUP
BOX 1827 F.D.R. STATION
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

Forwarding and Return
Postage Guaranteed
Addressed Correction
Requested

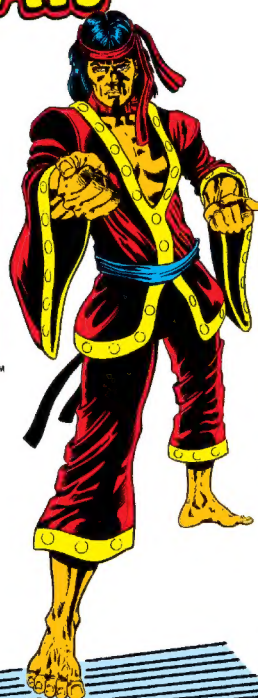
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHILADELPHIA, PA
PERMIT #2190

**SPECIAL
COSMIC
ISSUE**



**FACES THE FLASHING
FISTS OF
SHANG-CHI.**

MASTER OF KUNG FU

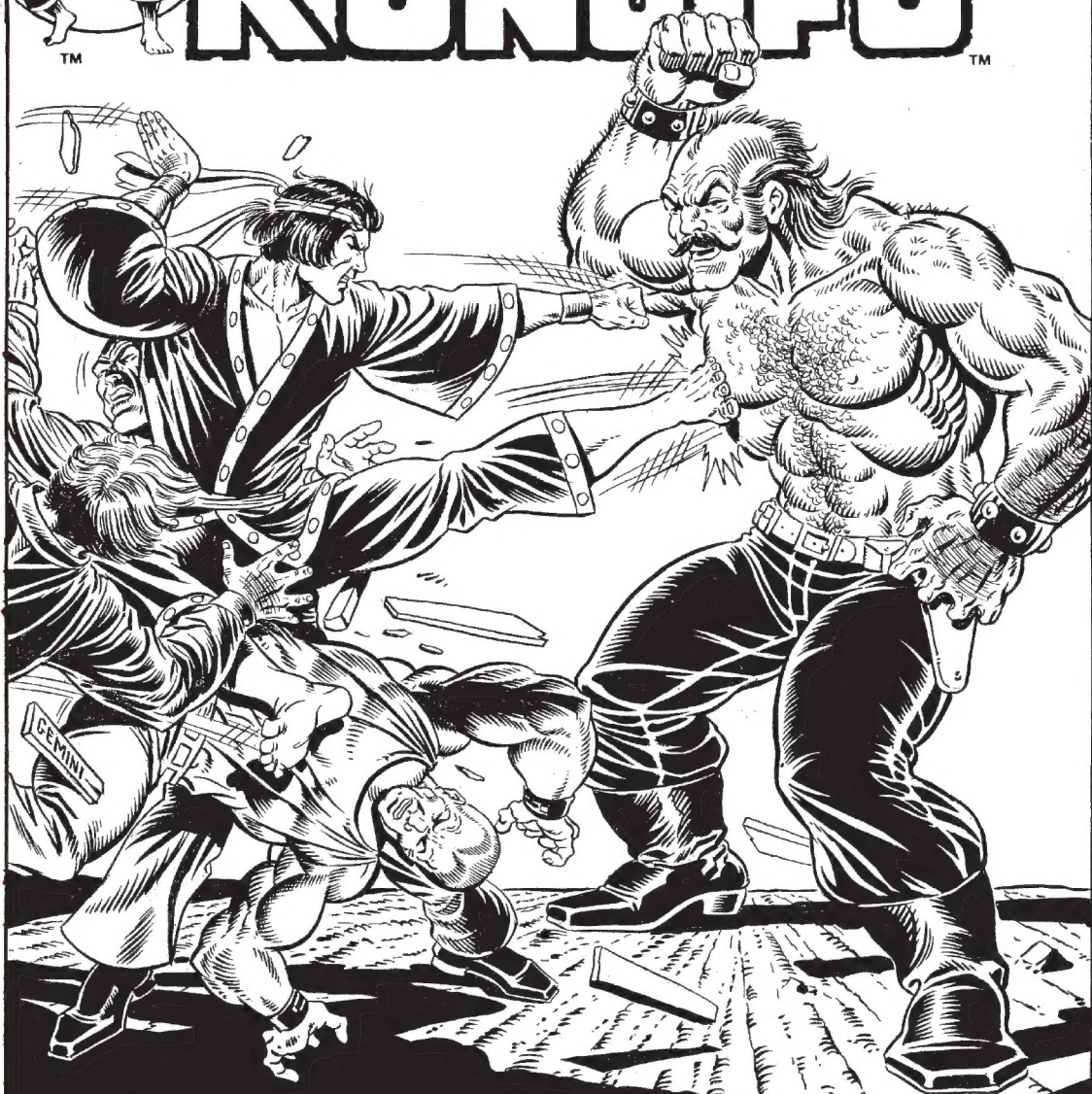


30 (COUNT 'EM, 30) PULSATING PAGES OF
ALL-NEW WALL-TO-WALL EXCITEMENT
 (AND THAT'S **LOTS** MORE THAN YOU GET IN OUR
COMPETITOR'S 60¢ SUPER-EXTRAVAGANZAS) --
PLUS MORE MULTI-STAR MILESTONES THAN YOU
CAN SLING A WEB AT-- ALL IN THE

2ND SENSATIONAL EDITION OF...



THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



COURTESY JON B. COOKE

MARVEL'S MARTIAL ARTS MASTER BEGINS HIS QUEST TO DEFEAT HIS EVIL FATHER!



One of the most groundbreaking Marvel comics of all time, *Master of Kung Fu* — the series that captured the kung fu craze — starts here! Born to be the world's most fearsome fighter, Shang-Chi's life takes an unexpected turn when he discovers the truth about his father, the villainous Fu Manchu. So begins the epic story of the Master of Kung Fu! In his quest to end the reign of his malevolent patriarch, Shang-Chi pits his deadly hands and unstoppable spirit against incredible foes including the mysterious Midnight, Tigerclaw and even the Amazing Spider-Man. He's joined by Sir Denis Nayland Smith and "Black" Jack Tarr of the British secret service, who will stop at nothing to end the devil doctor's reign.

VOLUME

1

1973-1975

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #15-16, MASTER OF KUNG FU #17-28 & GIANT-SIZE #1-4,
GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN #2 AND IRON MAN ANNUAL #4

The Epic Collections feature the best characters and stories from Marvel's vast history. Volumes are not published in chronological order — so start your collection today with this edition!

